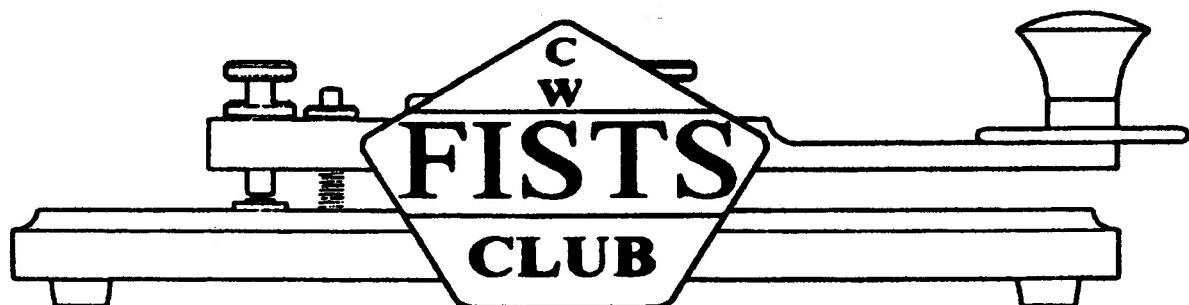


The Keynote

**Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society**

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - PLEASE READ

HOW DO I JOIN? Membership is open to all people interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. An application form is not necessary to join, but it gives us a more complete picture of our membership. You can download a North American membership application on the FISTS web page: <http://www.fists.org>.

An application can be mailed to you. Send a message Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com and he will email it to you, or mail an SASE to him at 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail. To join without an application, send your name, call, and mailing address with your membership fee to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS).

To join using Paypal (www.paypal.com), send the funds to fists@tir.com. In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address if different from your Paypal address.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? Subscriptions are \$15.00/year; Under 17= FREE; College students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and send to FISTS, P O Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. **Do not send FISTS correspondence to Nancy WZ8C's callbook address.** Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. ***It doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear.***

HOW DO I JOIN USING MY PAYPAL ACCOUNT? North American FISTS accepts PAYPAL (<http://www.paypal.com>). Address your PAYPAL payment to FISTS@TIR.COM To join via Paypal, type "New Membership" in the Paypal Comments Box, your name (if different from the name on your Paypal account), callsign, and mailing address.

HOW DO I RENEW? To renew, send \$15 to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440.

HOW DO I RENEW VIA PAYPAL? If you have a Paypal account, send the funds to fists@tir.com; to renew put "RENEWAL"and your callsign in the Comment Box.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW? We try to send out renewal postcards, but if you renew prior to your renewal month it will save postage and printing costs as well as volunteer time. Your renewal month is on your Keynote mailing label in the form of year, month, date. For example 2005/4/4 would be a renewal month April 2005. Your membership runs out the last day of that month. The computer program requires a specific date, to make it faster to type, the day of the month is the same number as the month. 2005/12/12; 2006/5/5 etc.

MAY I RENEW FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR AT A TIME? Yes! You may renew for as many years at a time as you like, but there is not a "quantity" discount.

MY MEMBERSHIP LAPSED, CAN I GET MY OLD NUMBER BACK? Yes. Numbers are not reassigned. If you have had a number in the past, let Nancy know at the time of your renewal so she can 'reactivate' it

WHERE DO I MAIL A DX APPLICATION OR RENEWAL? ZL,VK applications are go to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand. East Asia inquiries to Jean at join@fists-ea.org All other applications are to be mailed to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB? Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge. **To defray cost, please enclose \$1 if the club wants a membership certificate and \$3 for award certificates.**

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY @TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

Hi FISTS! Happy Holidays! I'm mailing this the first week in December, so with any luck you will get this before New Year's Eve (aka Straight Key Night). I will be there, so hope to run into many FISTS. If 15 is open, I'll look there first, then 20, and then 80 at night, and maybe 40. 40 meters is usually pretty crummy for me; since I'm in Michigan, we have a lot of Canadian SSB interference.

This didn't start out to be a Combo Issue. I had everything all set to go to the printer when Geo and Ralph surprised me with copies of their December Keynotes. Rather than hold up their news I decided to incorporate it in the one big Keynote.

The Reference Issue will be #1 in January, so if you have any callsign changes, PLEASE send them in to Ed or me (nancy@tir.com). Ed has a new email address: n7cfa@msn.com

In addition to making sure your callsign information is correct in our database, let us know if you've changed your email address, too. I send out periodic update emails (no more than once a month, if that), and we can't keep you informed if you don't give us your current email address. To update your address, write to Kathi at fistelist@comcast.net (note: NO 's' after fist).

We'll be updating the FISTS (<http://www.fists.org>) web page soon, too. Please help us out and check the link for your home page or your club's home page.

I checked it a few weeks ago, and there were an
Combo Issue 9/10 2005

embarrassing amount of dead links! If your club has a FISTS number and a web site you'd like listed on the FISTS web page, now is a good time to drop Webmaster Bill an email at kk4kf@cox.net and give him the details.

There are two new awards starting January 1, 2006. One of them, The G3ZQS Challenge, is sponsored by the DX FISTS, and they are entirely responsible for the rules, logs and certificates. If you have a question with the award, please contact them. Dennis, K6DF, (Awards Manager) and I don't know any more about it than you do - we have the same information about it that is in this newsletter or on the web page.

Please note that since this award focuses on the WARC bands, try real hard to make your contacts legit contacts. WARCs are not intended for contesting and we don't want FISTS to get a reputation for being the ones who turn the WARCs into contesting and number chasing bands. I'm sure I don't have to remind you that Courtesy at all Times is part of the philosophy.

The rules for our new contest (open to all) are in this issue. Have fun!! 73 88 33 Nancy Kott WZ8C

PS: Please check the subscription renewal date on the label of your Keynote. I'm sure you'll want to send in your renewal so you will be a member in good standing and be listed in the Reference Issue 2006!

Welcome to the New FISTS

<u>FISTS # Call sign</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>FISTS # Call sign</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
11879 WB0EYA	DEAN	MO		11920 AG4MA	JIM	VA	AE4R
11880 KD5ZLB	EDWIN	LA		11921 WB2HPR	STEVE	NY	ND4U
11881 WB7AVF	Rob	NY		11922 KE1VIN	KEVIN	IN	AA9LS
11882 K2ZC	Bob	CA		11923 KT6JS	JACK	CA	
11883 KA5TIW	JIM	TX		11924 WB0TRL	BART	MN	
11884 KC8RVX	DAN	OH		11925 KE7FGK	Maltby Radio Club		
11885 KG4TUY	DAVIDTN			11926 WQ7O	DENNIS	WA	NG7Z
11886 KG6UZB	KEN	CA		11927 N7LKL	DAVE	WA	
11887 W4IT	STEVE	SC		11928 WB8AHJ	STEVE	MI	
11888 WX4O	JOHN	AL		11929 WB8CPY	BILL	PA	
11889 AD7GG	DAVE	WA		11930 KA5KFS	DON	TX	
11890 N1HWQ	CHRIS	CT		11931 K1TU	BOB	TX	
11891 AC0CW	JAMES	AL		11932 AB0AH	LARRY	KS	
11892 AA6DX	MARK	CA	W6RA				
11893 K9FMX	TERRY	IN					
11894 KB1LLY	SAM	MA	N1HIY				
11895 WA9WFA	STEVE	MN					
11896 VA2VYZ	Jean-Francois	QUE					
11897 W3CGR	JOE	FL					
11898 W4RBO	JON	FL					
11899 NH7WB	PAUL	HI	N5DUQ				
11900 KB3MQT	North American QRP Club						
	Pennslyvania		K3WWP				
11901 WB3HZZ	ERNEST	PA	W7RVR				
11902 NY9A	ALAN	IN	WB9FXK				
11903 KB8RIY	THOMAS	OH	WB2FXK				
11904 WB7CAG	GARY	AZ					
11905 KI0J AI	CO						
11906 WB8KKY	JAN	MI					
11907 W5PEH	Pete	TX					
11908 W8VO	CLEM	MI	K8BVJ				
11909 KB3FEI	DALE	DE					
11910 WB2BJW	BOB	NY	WA2ICB				
11911 K7MBB	MICHAEL	WA					
11912 W1OOOW	VINCE	CT					
11913 N3GE	ANTHONY	DC					
11914 KA7LHE	JIM	WA					
11915 KD7HVZ	LAURENCE	OR					
11916 KC0UWS	BRANDON	CO					
11917 AL2P	MIKE	AK					
11918 N4KV	JOHN	TN					
11919 N2UZ	JERRY	NJ					

A HUGE "THANK YOU"
TO MEMBERS WHO
GIVE FISTS
PRESENTATIONS,
DISTRIBUTE APPLICATIONS
AT HAMFESTS and CLUB
MEETINGS, DISPLAY THE
FISTS LOGO ON YOUR QSL
CARD, PUT FISTS INFO
INSERTS & APPLICATIONS
WITH YOUR QSL CARDS,
INCLUDE LINKS TO FISTS
ON YOUR WEB PAGE, AND
USE MANY OTHER CRE-
ATIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE
OUR CLUB!!

<u>FISTS #</u>	<u>Call sign</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
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11933	W8JSY	CHRIS	MI	VE3VMP
11934	KI4LSA	Aubrey	VA	
11935	KB3JAJ	BILL	MD	
11936	KI7GV	MARK	AR	
11937	WB0TIL	STEPHEN	MO	
11938	W2AVC	DICK	NY	
11939	XE2ML	MARTIN	DGO	
11940	K5EC I	William	OK	
11941	N0HC	CLIFF CO	W9RSR	
11942	WB1KRI	RON	MN	
11943	K5LAC	BILL	TX	WB2FXK
11944	K1DWZ	KENNETH	NH	
11945	KG4PBG	RICHARD	NC	
11946	KD7TDC	CHRIS	WA	KD7REM
11947	N5DRV	JOHN	TX	W2IX
11948	N4FDG	BUCK	FL	N7NET
11949	KD8BXZ	NATHAN	OH	
11951	WR7K	GUY	WA	W7VWW and W7YCW
11952	N2LU	LEWIS	NY	
11953	WU7O	GREG	OR	
11954	WB6ULU	LLOYD	CA	KF6PVY
11955	WB6YEC	GEORGE	CA	
11956	KI4CIA	MELINDA	AL	
11957	VA7CZ	DAVID	BC	
11958	K8NLL	JOHN	OH	
11959	K5WX	Keith	TX	N5ESE
11960	KD3JF	PAUL	MD	
11961	KC2P	RON	NY	
11962	WQ9Z	ROY	IL	
11963	WZ8S	TOM	FL	
11964	K9DUR	RAY	IN	
11965	N9YSQ	TODD	KY	K9TKE
11966	N1EP	PHIL	ME	K1EXI
11967	W0IU	TONY	MN	K7ZYV and KC2EQA
11968	N4DT	DANNY	SC	
11969	W5HZA	PETER	LA	
11970	W9DSP	AL	WI	
11971	KC2NLG	STEPHEN	NY	WB2FXK
11972	KQ4Y	RICK	FL	
11973	K7JAL	JOE	WA	
11974	KD7RQF	TOM	WA	
11976	KW5K	WALT	LA	KW5Z
11977	W8MKR	JIM	MI	
11978	N8GT	GARY	MI	WB2FXK

Correction:
11779 is Kay, AI4IC, , not
AI4IG as listed in the last
issue

QRP Activity Reminders

Silent Key
Ben Kent, N2REL, FISTS #1976

Silent Key
Grant Mitchell, N4GM, FISTS #2573

If anyone is handing the QSL cards for K7FFF, Grant's club with FISTS number 7000, please contact Stan K4UK at the FISTS QSL Bureau.

Silent Key
It saddens me greatly to tell you that Jim Kimball K9JXW FISTS #2325 passed away on Nov 14, 2005 in Wausau, WI. He was a great CW op and a friend. Paul R Goemans WA9PWP FISTS 2153

K6KPH Code Practice

Each Saturday, at 2100z, K6KPH sends practice messages. The messages are sent in the proper ARRL format. They send at 30, 20, 15, and 10 wpm, on 7050, 14050, and 21050. These messages are sent one after the other. To me it is almost perfect code practice, particularly if one hopes to handle traffic during disasters.

I do not know how long this has been going on. Also, I do not know how long it will go on. I do think it is great code practice, however.

If the call letters KPH have no meaning to our members, they should go to <radiomarine.org> where they can learn some about how ship to shore communications. both routine and emergency, were handled. I hope this information will be helpful to you and our members.

73 es 88! Keep up all your good work!
Carl A. Lindh KO6IF

Run for the Bacon: January 15, 2006 February 19, 2006 March 19, 2006 April 16, 2006 May 21, 2006 June 18, 2006 July 16, 2006 August 20, 2006 September 17, 2006 October 15, 2006 November 19, 2006 December 17, 2006

9:00 to 11:00 PM Eastern time all year long

RULES Work stations once per band CW only Categories: All bands or Single band Exchange: RST, SPC (State/Province/Country), FP# (non-members send power) QSO Points: Member = 3 points, Member different continent = 5 points, non member = 1 point Multipliers: S/P/C total for all bands more than 50 members worked = X 2 Power: QRP only (qrp defined as 5 watts or less) Final Score: (Total QSO points) * (total S/P/C) * 2 (if 50 plus members worked) Suggested Frequencies CW: 1812, 3562, 7044, 14062, 21062, 27185, 28062 There is an Autolog reporting system and snail mail address for logs can be found at: <http://www.fpqrp.com/fpqrprun.html>

NAQCC Sprints:

Jan 2006 - 3rd Wednesday 18th EST 08:30-10:30 (Thursday 19th 0130-0330Z) Feb 2006 - 2nd Tuesday 14th EST 08:30-10:30 (Wednesday 15th 0130-0330Z) Mar 2006 - 3rd Wednesday 15th EST 08:30-10:30 (Thursday 16th 0130-0330Z) Apr 2006 - 2nd Tuesday 11th EDT 08:30-10:30 (Wednesday 12th 0030-0230Z) May 2006 - 3rd Wednesday 17th EDT 08:30-10:30 (Thursday 18th 0030-0230Z) Jun 2006 - 2nd Tuesday 13th EDT 08:30-10:30 (Wednesday 14th 0030-0230Z) and so on In odd numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) the sprint will be on the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30-10:30 PM ES(D)T which will be Thursday 0030-0230 UTC or 0130-0330 UTC. In even numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) the sprint will be on the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30-10:30 PM ES(D)T which will be Wednesday 0030-0230 UTC or 0130-0330 UTC. The general Sprint rules can be found at: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprintrules.html>

The L'Anse Cruse Michigan Swap



Left to right; Doug Reid WB8MKV, Dick Hames, WA8SSZ

A successful radio swap is one where you can buy an item under book value and a year later sell the same item above book value....to the same person, 73 Doug Reid

From the Boxes (PO and Email)

QSK Question

Just wondering which transceivers out there - older ones made in the 70's or 80's, have full break-in??
Thanks,

Phil #11096 phillevine@earthlink.net
www.phillevine.com

The K7QO Code Course

Irene, WO8E, and I travel around to several hamfests during the season and have handed out several hundred of the FISTS sponsored K7QO code courses (free of charge, of course). If even a fraction of the people who take the disk put any effort into it and learn the code, imagine the number of new operators we'll have! If you know someone who wants to learn the code, or if you would like to increase your proficiency, this disk is wonderful! It will get you up to 30 wpm, but it's not a magic pill. You have to do the WORK and practice. That means putting the disk into your mp3 player or computer and listening to it! To get your copy, send an SASE (an envelope addressed to you with sufficient postage for a disk, usually 60 or 83 cents, depending on the envelope type) to me at Nancy/FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 484410

Kudos for the Course

Nancy,

I stopped by your booth at the Ft. Wayne hamfest asking about high speed CW. You gave me the CD for the K7QO course. Thus far it sounds interesting and my practice, although not as regular as I want it to be yet, increases daily along with my ability to hear cw differently. I hope to get over my speed plateau soon. Thanks for providing the course.
73's,Bill Ellis, WB9CAC Fists # 11256

Willow Run "Yankee Lady"

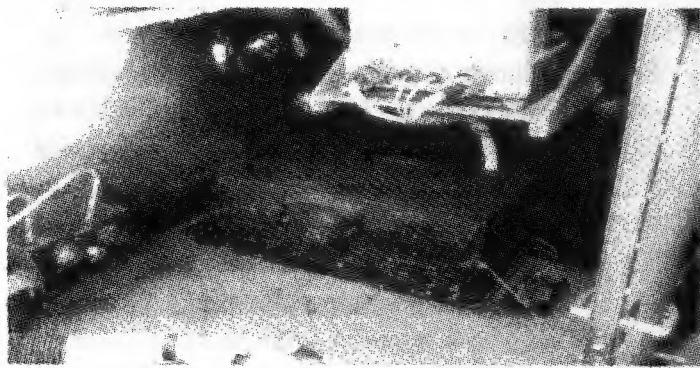
by Rich Jones - KG7FS

I was able to go up in the Willow Run Yankee Air Force B-17 "Yankee Lady" this year.

The hour long flight took us over Detroit, Michigan and all the way to the Jackson County line and back.

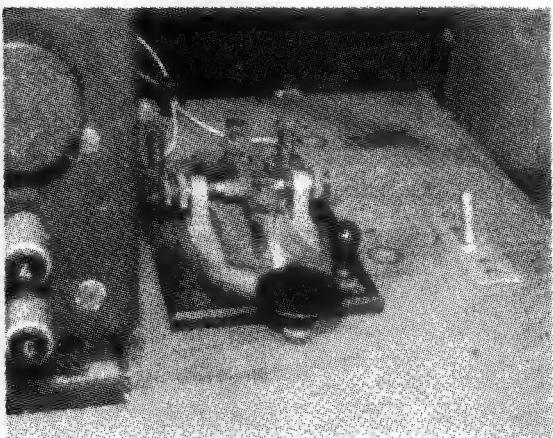
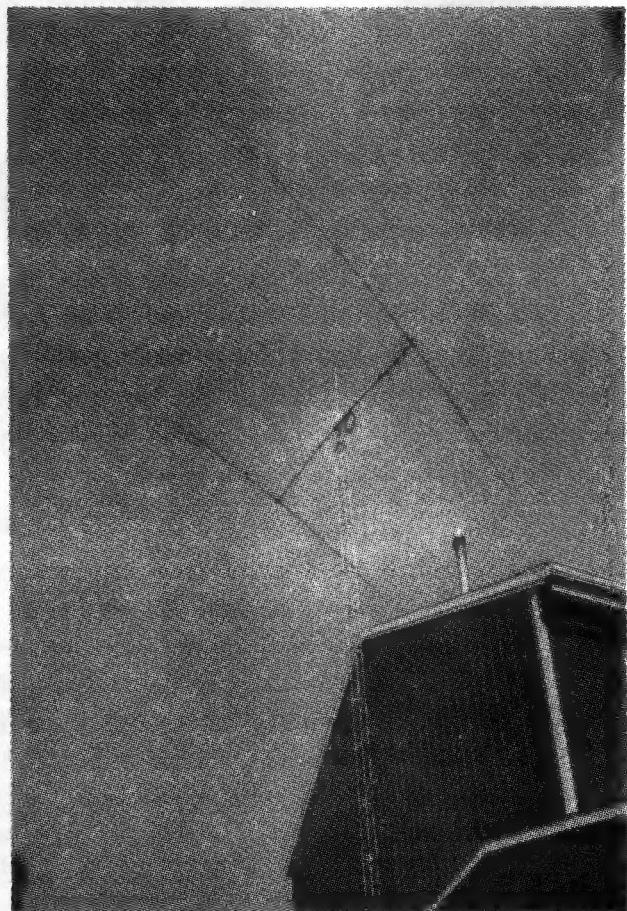


There were 8 of us passengers on board and we were free to walk around the plane, I sat in the radio operators seat and joked "does anyone want any messages sent home?" Well worth the time and the \$400.00 for the flight.



It is interesting to know the completely restored plane has a J-38 key on board. I was excited to see it because that is the same vintage key I use while operating my Ten Tec Triton IV here in S.E. Michigan. I bought mine almost 20 years ago and a 2nd hand store, paid 25 cents for it. A real bargain, it still works as good as the day it was made over 50 years ago.

I am also including photo of my Hi-Gain 40 meter mono-band beam here on the farm in S.E. Michigan. It is almost not fair when I use the Triton at 5 watts and CQ QRP on 7.110 with the beam pointed at my next QSO. Kinda like eating peas with a spoon, you don't miss any. 73 - Rich Jones - KG7FS



QRP With K3WWP

- Column # 71 -

It's time to take care of some input from you, my readers again. Then a little bit about the success of a new club that promotes CW operation as does FISTS.

Bob, K8FN was concerned about a statement in my column on portable operation. With my dry humor, I made a statement something like I wasn't able to work a station with my SWR at 1.4:1, but I could work him when it was down to 1:1. Bob was concerned someone might take my humor seriously and waste a lot of time and effort in trying to achieve that perfect SWR of 1:1. So let me say here that there is really not that much difference between 1.4:1 and 1:1. Not enough to worry about, especially at QRP power levels. I could go into the math here and make this a really technical column, but I'm going to just leave this topic now and move on.

Larry, W5WLB along with others I can't recall now, asked me if there was any particular time of day and band that I operate. Well, lately most of my activity has been in the 0000-0200Z time period as I try to get my streak QSO out of the way as quickly as possible lest something happen later in the day that might prevent me from continuing the streak. We are now in winter as you are reading this, so generally I will first check around 3558 or 3560 on 80M to see if anyone is

there or not. If not, I'll call CQ for a while with the memory in my keyer. When spring comes along and the 80M band gets noisy and less active, I'll hit 7040 on 40M in that 0000-0200Z time period.

Other than that there is really no pattern to my operating. I operate all 9 CW bands from 160-10M, depending on conditions. When I'm in a contesting mood, I'll hit the major contests, and be all over the bands that particular weekend.

Quite a few FISTS are also members of the North American QRP CW Club. That's good, because the main goal of the NAQCC is to promote CW activity on the ham bands. We do NOT promote any other operating modes but CW. It seems to me that a lot of other QRP clubs simply exist to get together and talk about building gear or to talk about this 'great' new QRP mode. I found it quite interesting that one major QRP club on its web site seems to encourage its members to communicate via the Internet rather than on the ham bands.

Let me say right here that the NAQCC encourages its members to get on the air and use CW as often as they have the time to do so. That is the only way we can preserve CW on the bands. We can talk about CW as much as we want to on the Internet, or build as much CW gear as we can, but if we don't actually get on the air and use CW, that is not going

to help to keep this wonderful communications mode alive.

The NAQCC has a monthly 2-hour weekday evening sprint to encourage activity other than on weekends. The sprint concentrates on 80 meters since that band seems to be declining in CW use of late. We also have monthly challenges to encourage members to be more active for a whole month at a time rather than just that short 2-hour time period each month. A couple examples of our challenges are the 30/30 challenge and the Presidents challenge.

The 30/30 challenge awarded members who made 30 QSO's on 30 meters during a calendar month. 30 meters is another band on which CW activity seems to be declining.

The Presidents challenge awarded members who spelled out the names of Lincoln and Washington using letters from the calls of stations they worked during February 2005.

Each month the challenge is a little different, but always designed to get members on the air with CW.

The NAQCC also has an extensive awards program again with the same goal in mind.

All NAQCC activities involve strictly CW and QRP operation. Some activities also encourage the use of simple wire antennas to show how highly ef-

fective a mode CW is. You can do a lot with very simple equipment using CW.

The club must be doing something right since in the first 14 months of its existence, it has gotten 1,119 members. That makes it probably one of the fastest growing ham radio clubs these days.

Oh, and to top it off, membership is completely FREE. Our motto is "No Dues, Just Do". That motto thought of by the club's founder and President, Tom Mitchell, KB3LFC. If you haven't joined up yet, drop by <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/> and join us. Oh, I say us because I'm the Vice-President.

Till next issue, very 73 and 71. 71 is used by the NAQCC as a sign that we are pretty much all very minimal QRPers with our simple wire antennas that are often indoors. However you are also invited to join us no matter what power and antennas you use as long as you want to help preserve CW on the bands. -30-

**Because this is a
Combo Issue, we are
including the next
installment of QRP with
K3WWP to assure that
his fans don't get
short-changed.**

QRP With K3WWP

- Column # 72 -

I occasionally get a letter or email from someone who has visited my web site or read one of these columns in the Keynote wondering why they are not having any success with their QRP setup. I can sense their air of discouragement and would like to address that issue in this column.

It is easy to become discouraged when using QRP at times especially if you are the impatient sort. Using QRP does require patience since it is a fact that it is not as easy to make contacts when you are using only 5 watts or less of output power.

Although I have made at least one QSO using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas every day since August 5, 1994, some days it was quite hard to get that QSO. Admittedly not many days, but when such a day did come along I did feel some discouragement. It didn't stop me from using QRP though.

Back in the 1960's and 1970's I was running 60-75 watts input power which was considered QRP at the time as was anything under 100 watts input power. My antennas were similar to what I use today. I really became discouraged when I couldn't work some DX station that seemingly everyone else was working easily. I even pretty much gave up DXing because of

that. I was younger then and didn't have the wisdom to realize that those stations had much better antenna systems and locations than I did.

If you do take the time to analyze your results (or lack of results) with QRP, it is easy to dispel that discouragement so let's look at some reasons why things may not be working.

One really discouraging thing is calling a station and having him not hear you at all. This sometimes happens even when the station you are calling is quite strong and the path between you and him should be good enough to support your QRP signals.

Well, consider these things. The other fellow may be a new ham (or even an older ham - it happens to all of us) who is not using his rig correctly. He may have it set up for split frequency operation (unintentionally) or have his RIT or XIT turned on so that he is listening on some frequency other than the one on which he is calling CQ. This is quite likely if you also hear other stations calling him and he is not hearing them either.

The ham you are calling may live in an area that produces a very high local noise level and he is unable to copy any but the very strongest signals. Ouch, that hits home quite hard since I have that situation here. My noise level is at S9 or higher most all the time here. My 40 plus years experience

of copying CW under all kinds of conditions does help me pull out signals well below the noise, but I know I do at times miss stations that answer my CQ's.

There are hams who for one reason or other (legitimate such as a hearing problem or not legitimate like being just too lazy to put in a little effort to copy a weaker signal) do not deal with weak signals. They only answer the very strongest signals.

I believe there is such a thing as one-way skip, although its existence has not been proved and is a subject of debate. The other ham's signal may be propagating to you very well, but not vice-versa.

If you're working DX, the DX station may intentionally be operating split frequency, transmitting on one frequency and listening on another.

If you transmit on his transmitting frequency he will never hear you. So always try to be aware of what a DX station is doing before you call him.

If you're in a contest, remember many participants will be running kilowatts and big beam antennas so their signals will be quite strong to you while yours may not be strong to them. However contest stations do have the best receiving equipment possible because 'you can't work them if you don't hear them' and every QSO counts for them toward that

final big score. Your QSO may be the difference between first and second place for them. The best contest operators will make the effort to copy you.

It's very discouraging when you go all out in a contest and still fall far short of achieving the results that X3XXX did in that contest also using QRP. Well that one is easy to analyze. If you know your contesting skills are as good as his, then it's virtually certain he has a better antenna system, better and/or quieter location, or some other such physical factor that aids him. That's one thing I like about our NAQCC I talked about in my last column. In all our results, we publish what kind of antenna system a ham used to get those results. So you can compare your results against those in a similar situation to yours.

If someone beat you badly but has a much better antenna system it is logical that he would have beaten you and you shouldn't feel any discouragement in that.

This column is not a cure all for discouragement, but it does point out that you should analyze your failures, and not just give up on QRP after a few unsuccessful attempts to make a QRP QSO. After all, I've made around 45,000 QRP QSO's with my simple wire antennas. And I'm certainly no one special. If I can do it, you can too.

Till next column (probably Keynote #2 for 2006) when

we'll talk about some methods to make sure you succeed with QRP, '73.

Stop by my web site for a visit when you get a chance. It's at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>. If you have comments or questions on these columns, email me at johnshan@alltel.net. -30-

POSTAGE HIKE

The postage rate hike to 39 cents for regular letter mailing to locations within the United States becomes effective on January 8, 2006. The postcard rate will increase from 23 cents to 24 cents.

It appears the "additional ounce" rate step will increase to 24 cents. So, the two ounce rate will be 63 cents, the three ounce rate is 87 cents, the four ounce rate is \$1.11, the five ounce rate is \$1.35, etc. We will need a bunch of 2 cent stamps to add to existing SASE's we have on hand.

We don't know at this time how much the International Rates are increasing, so keep an eye on the FISTS QSL Bureau page for updates.

Please help us out by making sure your new SASE's have enough postage, and if you have envelopes on hand, send in a few 2-centers to put on them. Two cents here and there isn't much, but we're talking thousands of envelopes and that adds up!

Thanks!

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF, Awards Manager

Remember to use the awards e-mail address, (fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs.

Please send in complete logs for awards; that means all of the following information:

Call

Date of QSO

Band

FISTS Number

Point/s claimed for each QSO

Incomplete logs delay the issuing of your award.

The FISTS number for KN0WCW can only be counted ONCE!

Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them: <http://www.fists.org/awards.html> If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail me with your questions. Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

Worked All States (FISTS)

WA1FJT

NANFA

1 X QRP

W9YQ

K9EW RCC

WB4MED

WB4MED

WACA

Mobile

WB5KHC

WB4MED

AWARDS ISSUED -

Sept 13, 2005 to November 18, 2005

Basic Century (CC)	Silver Century
AC3C	AI4JW
K2XOX	K9WM
K4CZ	KA8MPT
K4VD	KE5AQD
K8BBM	KF0GE
K9EW	W7DK
KA0GX	Gold Century
KA5REJ	W7DK
KC9FAV	Diamond Century
KE5AQD	N0BZM
KF0GE	Platinum Award
KF4YP	KA2REY
KI4IDK	KE5AQD
KJ7BS	KE7XU
KR4M	KG9HV
N5KEV	W9DQ
VA3RKM	Platinum 250 Award
W4UJ	G0GSY
W4XJ	KG4NNN
W5GXV	N0BZM
W9ATB	Platinum 500 Award
W9INA	KB3JAR
WK4DS	KK4DW

The International (Morse) Radiotelegraph Code Transmission Rate Standard

John W. Reiser, WQ4L, Mt. Vernon, Virginia FISTS 10420 (wq4l@arrl.net)

The International Morse code operation by amateur radio operators received national attention on a recent segment of NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Two amateur operators Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW competed against speed champion cell phone instant message senders in transmitting a brief 11-word sentence.

Jay commented on how the 168 year-old Morse Code technology was much faster than the modern instant messaging. The Morse Code was sent at a very modest rate about 30 WPM used every day by thousands of hams throughout the world and significantly slower than that used by the best contest operators.

This brings up the question of how the actual rate of Morse Code transmission is defined. The FCC regulations for both amateur and commercial radiotelegraph operator license examinations specify the applicant must successfully pass a code examination of a certain transmission rate in words per minute (WPM).

The U.S. amateur tests have included rates of 5, 13, and 20 WPM while commercial examinations required receiving plain text at 20 and 25 WPM and random letter/numeral/punctuation code groups at 16 and 20 WPM for the second and first class radiotelegraph licenses respectively. All code tests were sent for Combo Issue 9/10 2005

exactly five minutes at the required rate. I made a review of the ITU code standards, FCC Rules Part 13 (Commercial Radio Operators) and FCC Rules Part 97 for Amateur Radio Operators and an internet search but, I found no mention of an official calibration standard.

The International Morse Code is comprised of a unique sequence of short and long tones or electric pulses and spaces representing each letter, numeral, and common punctuation mark used in transmitting telegraphic messages. These are termed dots and dashes. The structure of the code is defined in a Recommendation of the International Telecommunication Union. This code adopted as an international standard at the International Telegraphy Congress of 1865 held in Paris. (More about Paris later.)

This code had significant changes from the original code. The main difference is that the ITU code has uniform defined lengths of each dot and dash making up each letter and the spacing between the dots and dashes, letters and words. The American Morse Code has different lengths of dashes and internal letter spacing for certain characters. The uniform length of dots, dashes and spaces facilitated automated transmission equipment using perforated paper tape. Several mechanical and electrical devices known as the Wheatstone tape

perforators were used to prepare the punched tape for accurate machine sending.

The ITU standard for the spacing and length (duration) of Morse Code signals is as follows:

A dash is equal to three dots.

The space between the signals forming the same letter is equal to one dot.

The space between two letters is equal to three dots.

The space between two words is equal to seven dots.

For this paper, I will define the duration of one dot as a dot time unit (DTU). The character symbols have combinations of 1 to 6 dot and dash combination. The shortest is for the Letter E with one dot plus 3 space DTU for a total of 4 DTU. The numeral zero [0] with five dashes and several punctuation marks with up to 6 dot-dash combinations each have 22 DTU including the letter end spaces. This results in a transmitting time ratio of 5.5 to 1.

From the above table, the standard word space between words adds the equivalent of 4 DTU (one complete dash cycle) to the end of the normal 3 DTU following the last word letter. Although not specified, an additional space is frequently added between sentences for a total duration equal to 11 DTU. The shortest code letter is E, consisting of one dot followed by a 3 dot-length space for a total of 4 units. The longest code

characters are the numeral zero [0] with five dashes and the several punctuation marks made up of four dashes and two dots. (These are the comma, apostrophe, and right-hand parenthesis.) These characters require 22 dot time units to transmit or 5.5 times that to send the letter E (22/4).

When I first started working for the FCC at the Detroit field office we used a Wheatstone perforated tape transmitting machine to conduct amateur and commercial operator code examinations. This device must have weighed at least 30 pounds with a 1/8 horsepower variable-speed motor and a meter calibrated in WPM. Before starting exams, particularly at field locations, we always used a "calibration" tape to check the accuracy of the WPM meter before each examination session. (Later, the FCC obtains a small light-weight perforated code tape readers about the size of a shoebox that used a synchronous clock motor and a set of changeable capstans of different diameters for each of the required code rates.)

The calibration tape consisted of the word PARIS repeated continuously 150 times. The machine code sending rate was checked by either timing the entire tape with a stopwatch, or counting the times the word PARIS heard during a 1-minute period.

There are many internet references to PARIS as the code WPM rate standard, but I was unable to

find any official documentation for this. I suspect it was because the code was officially adopted at the Paris Congress of 1865 and the French always wanted to have the last word when writing international conference documents. Perhaps someone determined that this word was equivalent to average word content by analyzing a sample of telegraphic message texts.

How representative is the word PARIS in code to the number of actual words of the English text that also includes representative numerals and punctuation marks? To find out I wrote a computer program in VisualBasic® that would count the number of words in a standard ASCII text file and then count the DTU for each character in the file. The number of code DTU divided by the total number of number of words gives the average DTU per word for that file.

The count of the dots, dashes, and spaces in the word PARIS equivalent to string of 25 continuous dots (50 DTU) as produced by an electronic keyer. Sending PARIS exactly 10 times in one minute is the same as 250 dots (500 DTU) at an assumed 10-WPM code rate. Each dot cycle would be 0.24 seconds long. At 1 word per minute, each DTU would be 2.4 seconds long. With this information the standard transmission rate in words per minute would be 2.4 divided by the time duration of a dot cycle (two DTU). Because a dash cycle is 4 DTU in

duration, alternatively, the rate is also given by dividing 9.6 by a dash cycle length.

To see how well PARIS compares with some text files, I first made a one line file with PARIS repeated 10 times with normal word spacing. Running my counting program with this file indicated exactly 500 BTU as expected. Then I then converted the draft copy of this article in Microsoft Word into a standard ASCII text file, used it with my test program. The program counted double spaces between words as DTU value of 8. All carriage returns and other characters not having a Morse code symbol were skipped in the counting. The resulting statistics for the final version of this text will be added following the final draft.

Initial test result was of 50.50328 DTU per word. Several runs with other ASCII text documents all resulted in average word lengths between 49 and 51 DTU, depending on the ratio of numbers in the text. So it appears that the word PARIS is indeed representative the average word length of text messages of letters, numbers and punctuation.

If you wish to calibrate the rate adjustment control of your electronic keyer or accuracy of your computer program, perhaps the easiest way would be to store the word PARIS repeatedly or using the keyer store loop function. carefully count the time the word repeats in a one-minute period.

If you have any kind of computer audio waveform editing program and can record a series of dots or dashes from your keyer, you could also measure the actual time duration of the DTU. Then calibrate your keyer WPM control using the 2.4 factor for dots and 9.6 for dashes.

I use an audio editing program called "Cool Edit" that will for measuring segments to 0.00001 seconds. A trial limited-version of this program may still be available without charge for internet downloading without charge.

One final note. The FCC required correct copy of the code for one continuous period. This was based on counting 65 consecutive symbols for the 13-WPM and 100 characters for the 20-WPM tests. Each numeral and punctuation mark was given a two-letter credit. The 5-WPM novice and technician class code tests were transmitted with letters formed at the 13-WPM rate, but with only 25 letters per minute by extending the spacing between characters. This is called Farnsworth spacing. Numerous Internet sites have information on the history and on the additional Morse characters symbols used for non-English language CW radio communications.

This is the result of evaluating all text above this line:

Number of words 1,541

Number of letters: 77,402

Number of numbers & punctuation: 325

Number is single spaces: 1,474
Number of double spaces: 67
Total number of DTU: 77,418
Ratio of letters to numbers & punctuation: 238.61:1
Ratio of words to total single &

double spaces: 1.000

Ratio of words to DUT:
50.238806
Percentage variation from
PARIS: 0.477512%

Kudos for Ft. Wayne Op's Courtesy

There are a number of Fort Wayne area hams that are trying to increase their CW skills. I encourage them to visit the FISTS calling frequencies and assure them that most FISTS members will gladly QRS to help them out. From what they tell me, I am right. They are having success working FISTS members. Now, if I can only get them to join!

Here's a QSL card from Dave – KB5IZO that says it all :

Mike,

When you first heard me answer your CQ and I heard the V's I knew that you were matching my speed, thanks very much. Every Fists op I work is courteous and understanding. I should join FISTS as I am mainly CW op, but also use PSK31.

A few weeks ago I was at Camp Wisdom and operated portable made contact with a VK3 station on PSK31. They have a permanent station there KA3BSA/5.

The 440 you have really sounds good. I like having a rig with tubes because of the compromises with Stealth antennas and the TS520 refuses to die. 30 years old and still puts out 100+watts.

Hope to get a QSL card, I am working on CW WAS.

73,

Dave

Thanks to all the FISTS members that QRS for our newer CW ops and prospective FISTS members. Mike – WB9DLC

SO! You Want to be a Millionaire? -- NEW AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The new 2006 FISTS award won't make you a millionaire, but it will make you feel like a million bucks when you complete it and add this beautiful piece of wallpaper to your collection to remind you of the new CW friends you made along the way.

A FISTS award has to appeal to the broadest possible range of operators. Several new awards have been suggested, but they usually are something that only about a half-dozen of our most avid paperchasers and super-frequent operators will earn. It might look good to have dozens of awards listed on our web page ("Look how many awards we offer!") but when they are out of reach of 98% of the membership, they are more discouraging than inspiring.

I think I've got a good one here with the Millionaire. We looked at logs of operators of various activity levels; a moderately active operator could earn it in a year, sooner if they participate in the Sprints. We're offering endorsements in increments of 1 million, so you will still have something to work for after you reach the first million. If the award is popular and takes off, we may offer a plaque for those who reach five million or so. We'll see how the first year goes.

Another important aspect of a new award is that it has to be simple to log and simple to verify. This award is very easy - you just keep track of the FISTS membership numbers and add them up. The total of the FISTS membership numbers worked is your score. For example, if you work FISTS #10000, #379 and #11391 your score would be 21,770. It adds up fast! We hope this will encourage the newer members to get on the air. They are worth the most points and everyone will be looking for them.

ONLY CONTACTS MADE ON or AFTER January 1, 2006 may be used. You may count each FISTS number **ONCE PER BAND**, but on as many bands as you want. WARCs may be used if the QSO is conversational, NO WHAM-BAM, HIT&RUN, CONTEST TYPE CONTACTS on the WARCs. There are no rules for the type of exchange, but you are encouraged to exchange FISTS numbers on the air. On the log we will need the date, band, FISTS membership number. We will have a log sheet in Issue 1, 2006 (reference issue) and on the FISTS web site (<http://www.fists.org>). Please direct questions to Awards Manager, Dennis K6DF (fistsawards@comcast.net) or me, Nancy WZ8C (nancy@tir.com).

C2C Oops!

BEGIN TRANSMISSION: I wanted to write a little something for the Keynote but at first, I was a little scared. Now, I have something to write about. It has to do with the FISTS C2C contest. I must admit this was my first C2C contest. I made an assumption that was wrong. And I jumped into the contest without knowing the rules. The first mistake I made was grabbing the exchange and simply assuming it to be like any other contest. I learned later only CLUB stations were calling! I unwittingly moved to a clear frequency, called QRL a couple of times, and when I heard nothing started hammering away with my very own CQs. At this point, I want to apologize to everybody that worked me thinking I was a club station. Had I gone to the web and read the rules first, this would not have happened. Now, had I actually paid closer attention, I might have even found out during the event as I think KA9YCB actually tried to tell me what I was doing wrong, but I was too busy with contesting to listen to the finer points of his transmission. From now on, I will take the time to copy everything sent and not just the exchange for the log entry. The contest was a lot of fun anyway and I hope everybody will consider our QSOs as standard contacts as I have over 50 cards going to the bureau now that this event is over. Summing things up, let me say the everybody should read the rules for a contest before entering it. Secondly, they should listen when others are trying to help them out and tell them something. Above all HAVE FUN! See you on the air, 73 David Saylors - WK4DS **END TRANSMISSION**

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.fists.co.uk>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@ascl.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB, J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0BPT
38 Wheatley St, W. Bromwich, B70 9TJ

COMMITTEE

Chairman G4XHZ
Vice Chairman G4YLB
P.R.O. G4YLB
Secretary G3ZQS

Please keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

GREETINGS

Christmas greetings indeed. Yes that happy time of the year is approaching again, turkey, mince pies and that not too comfortable feeling as you stretch out in front of the fire and gaze wearily at the pathetic offerings on television. Know the feeling? Try having a morsel less and disappear into the shack for a change. There's always someone to insult even if it's only G3ZQS!

Now that winter is definitely upon us,, I was happy to see a local handy man who turns up periodically to tend to the wilderness that passes a garden. There are small slow growing conifers at each end and whilst burning some of the accrued rubbish, he inadvertently set fire to one of them. Conifers being what they are it is surprising that the whole was not consumed in the conflagration but I now have a kind of topiary representing a conifer at the top and bottom with about three feet of nothingfulness in the centre. Could be I have started a trend which will spread to those magnificent gardens beloved of castles and aristocratic manor houses but I am assured it will recover.

Time to sit back smugly because I got my flu jab in October when the GP was well stocked. All I need now is a new pair of lungs, a cure for arthritis and an injection of usable brain cells!

It's gonna be a little lonlier this Christmas. I came down on Saturday morning (26 Nov) after a perfectly normal night to find Suzy had died in her sleep. I confess to being more than a little saddened though though the little 1 Kg bundle had been her bouncy self the previous night.

WARC BANDS CHALLENGE

Most of you will have the necessary kit to access these bands and of course, they represent a refuge to those who are frustrated by weekend contests. Please bear in mind however that contest activity there is deeply frowned upon and whilst you are encouraged to make use of them, number chasing can well be perceived as contest activity so your FISTS number and locator details should be an incidental part of a normal QSO. Having said that, Robert (M0BPT) - your EU contest manager, has devised the following which, despite an initial feeling of embarrassment to yours truly he has titled "The G3ZQS Challenge". Flattery will get you far mate!

From 00.01 1st January 2006 to 23.59 31st December 2006, this challenge is separate from all other activities in the FISTS calendar.

Bands 30M, 17M & 12M

RULES

Mode: C.W. Only

Scoring: 1 point non members, 2 points FISTS members, 3 points Fists club stations.

Exchange: FISTS nr, (NM,) and IARU locator square (IO85 etc) which can be used as a multiplier for the total number of contacts made during the year.

For the locator square to be eligible for a multiplier, a club member must have been worked within the square. i.e. G9XYZ scores 2,400 points 12 different locator squares. $2,400 \times 12 = 28800$.

Repeat stations: can only be worked a maximum of four times per month.

AWARDS:

Outright winner: Trophy with call, year, etc, Engraved.
with certificates for 2nd and 3rd places.

A certificate will also be awarded to the highest points scored by a QRP entrant. (Max 5w output at the transmitter) endorsed accordingly. Therefore all entrants must declare their power output.

LOGS.

Monthly returns by the 14th.

By email in excel format if possible please to:
m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

Snailmail to:

R.D.Walker M0BPT, 38, Wheatley Street, West Bromwich,
B70 9TJ, England.

The purpose of the challenge is to promote activity on the WARC Bands... it is not a contest

CALL "CQ FISTS" on or around the following frequencies;

30m 10.118 MHz,
17m 18.085 MHz,
12m 24.918 MHz

LADDER

Totals to October/05

G4LHI	268
M5ABN	256
M0BHA	80
M0DRK	66
OH7QR	64
GW4HDB	52
G6GUN	66
MX5HDF	42
2E0TEK	29
M0CMQ	17
G8XGQ	10
PA3AFF	8

NEW MEMBERS

Just a couple this month folks:

10892 RA3BZ Sergey 10893 DK5ZX Dieter

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3TEV. Mike decries his "mis-spent youth" chasing an odd shaped ball around a field but it can't be bad when his daily sked with Brian, 9J2BO is still producing results from as far back as 1992. He ascribes the success (now in excess of 3800 QSOs) to "a bit of wire at 25 feet agl.

G0Hуз/G0LUZ. They should by now have returned from a silent trip to 4S7 since the political situation in Sri Lanka creates difficulties in terms of radio equipment. Oddly (since they flew via Dubai where the situation is similar) they have no objection to you taking a lap top. Heck! It just can't be security can it? I have fond memories of the Western region of the pearl.

G4RHR. Ken is looking forward to erecting an delta loop (feed near ground level) so may well be heard on 40m. He has replaced his original tower with a new tennomast strapped to the house structure which will make life a lot easier when it is necessary to work on antennas. Hope the wire works out well Ken.

G3HBN. Hi Jim. Yes, things have been a bit 'rough' and sadly, thus far, there have been no offers to take over the helm should the situation require it. This is very much a matter which I would like all UK members to consider. I would not mind writing for Keynote if another set of fingers could be found and indeed maintaining the listing and other admin stuff in the interim period though I have little doubt that UK circulation would still continue via either the NZ or U.S. brigade. Not the most satisfactory situation I agree though preferable to the fate which befell TOPS.

E15FY. Seems Bill is looking forward to a pair of replacement knees and hips. That's adding a whole new dimension to the description "spare part surgery" mate and of course we hope all goes well for you. Physical restrictions have taken their toll with Bill recording only one QSO in the past year or so but he is a committed listener.

G4GFQ. Must have struck a chord with Ron when relating my stop/go tactics when shopping. He tended to walk only from one 'sitting down' spot to the next. His good lady is disabled and was provided with a 3-wheel electric cart which has since been upgraded to a 4-wheel version with a bit more 'oomph'. Considered this myself Ron but Darwen is about two miles very much down hill and since my house is stepped both front and back, getting the thing inboard would be nigh on impossible. Uuugh!

6Y5WJ. Josh reports that the hurricane season has left no structural damage though things are inevitably on the 'damp' side. In Jamaica, the hurricane season begins again in June so he is hoping to get things ship shape pdq since there will most likely be enquiries from various U.S. based stations seeking accommodation and TLC whilst running DXpeditions, contests etc. He treats 'em well with an island-wide tour and doubtless plenty of rum

based medication for which the island is famous. He is also anticipating a visit from his daughter and first Grandchild any time soon. The title 'Grandad' he suspects, puts him firmly in the 'pipe and slipper' category though at 52 years it is probably sitting a little less than comfortably on his shoulders.

M0CMQ. Yes I can understand that not all members are contest minded but surely the ladder weekends are not really contests... so where is everyone? 73 de Mark.

CQ WW (SSB)

Received as CC from Pierre F3WT, to the CQ WW contest committee a complaint regarding SSB activity within the nominated CW only segments including 7.0115 and 7.023 specifically identifying certain individuals and suggesting their logs be rendered invalid. They must be swamped with similar observations each year and still appear to do nothing about it. Meanwhile, Steve GW4ALG commends <http://hamgallery.com/survey/> which seemingly takes you through to CQ Mag phone contest organiser.

M0CMQ. Mark says he regularly uses the ARRL website for CW practice. That's a new one on me Mark.

BPL

via Ralph, ZL2AOH:

VK1AI-Greg #9604 went out with Owen VK1OD to investigate a BPL trial in Queanbeyan, New South Wales, (adjacent to Canberra). Reports available via www.vk1od.net/bpl/QueanbeyanBplTrial.htm

OOPS!

Seems I made an uncorrected whoopsie. 10828 is Alan, M0MZX and my apologies for the delay in this corrxn.

MOBILE PHONE SCAM

Due to a confusing header, I am unable to identify the source for the following:

"If you receive a phone call from any person saying he or she is a company engineer or saying they are checking your mobile line, END THE CALL IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT PRESSING ANY NUMBERS.

There is a fraud company using a device that once you press #90 or #09, they can access your SIM card and make calls at your expense.

If you receive a phone call on your mobile and the display shows (XALAN) don't answer. END THE CALL IMMEDIATELY. The virus will erase all your IMIE and IMSI information from both your phone & SIM card, which will make your phone unable to connect with the telephone network. You will have to buy another phone.

This info has been confirmed by both Motorola & Nokia".

SKW

Just to confirm SKW results: (1) G4LHI=258, (2) G3LIK=242, (3) G4GSY=98. Logs also from M0DRK, M5ABN, G3HAL, G3MRH, IK2RMZ, G8XGQ and M0CMQ.

FINALE

Just about space to wish all of you the very best for the festive season. With any luck I'll be on the bands looking for you. 73/88 people - have fun.

Geo



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – November 2005

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki Railway 5560, New Zealand.

Newsletter Distribution & QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, 3/153 Gisborne Street, Wellington, New South Wales 2820, Australia. Mobile Tel: 0425-301-539

Membership/Awards Liaison: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848

QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above.

QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above

Address e-mails for all the above persons to: fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz



SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)
18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome is extended to **VK4RE-Roy Hildred #9656** who is from Toowoomba, Queensland. Roy is our second member from there. The attractive city of Toowoomba is situated some 132 kilometres west of Brisbane at an altitude of 700 metres. – We hope to have a personal profile of Roy in a later edition of FISTS Down Under.

The illustration below is one of the more than 100 parks in the city.



OUR MEMBERS' NEWS

Thanks to **ZL1BLR-Len #9061** for sending a donation when renewing his subscription. Len has changed his QTH – refer to the Down Under membership list accompanying this newsletter. Thanks also for donations to **ZL1MH-Mike #9038**, **ZL1PY-Rod #9622** and **ZLPD-Alison #9623**.

We are sorry to report that **ZL1UB-Don #9037** has gone QRT and has decided to resign from the club. In wishing us well he send a very generous donation for which we are most grateful

Last month we reported that **ZL1CT-Chris #9648** was returning to Scotland. By the time you read this, Chris will be on the high seas in a ship heading for the UK, travelling via the Indian Ocean. Chris hopes to be QRV from on board as ZL1CT/MM. Give him a call if you hear him. – While in the UK, Chris will be using his call GM3WOJ.

COAST-TO-COAST EVENT – 2005

Don't forget to get on the air during the C2C event. Times are 00:00 to 23:59 hrs UTC on Sunday 30 October 2005. We hope to have all four FISTS Down Under club stations on the air. Also on the air will be the new FISTS East Asia Japanese national club station JL3YMV #15000.

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

Some wise words from **K4UK-Stan #2934**, in a recent e-mail received from him: "We do need to increase FISTS activity on all the bands, or I fear many more members will not renew."

Stan, ZL2BLQ was running ZL2SWR last night and called CQ FISTS many times on 14.057 MHz. I have worked him quite often in the past and thought surely a FISTS member would answer his CQ. When none did for a 15-minute stretch, at 0232 UTC I thought I ought to call him to tell him he had a 539 signal in VA. We chatted for 13 minutes. Afterward he called CQ FISTS many times, but had no answers. Obviously propagation was there, but no there were no FISTS. Doesn't speak well of our club!

As I have said before, to insure the future of CW, we must populate all the bands with signals using the Morse code."



This picture is of **JL1SIK-Jean # 9836** when he was operating as N1VF/KH2 from Guam. Jean, whose home QTH is close to Osaka is the editor of the FISTS East Asia Newsletter.

ZI2TX-Nigel #9040 has just moved house and is still unpacking, wondering where to put everything, as his new QTH is smaller than his previous one.

JL3AMK-Harry #15002 reports: The international club station of FISTS JA IS about to start its operation with the call JL3YMV this northern autumn. The station's FISTS number is 15000. It is equipped with a rig TS-2000SX (50W) and Yagi antenna for 40 to 10m. We are now proceeding with the preparations to get on the air in time for the C2C contest. See you on the air soon. We really thank

JL3SIK-Jean #9836 for taking so much trouble on our behalf to get the call issued.

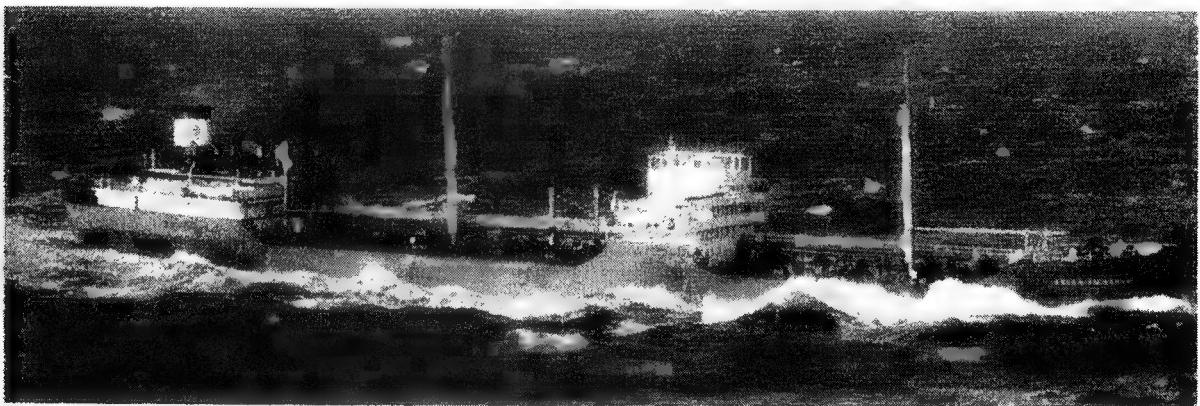
Our Japanese friends in FISTS East Asia have just issued their latest newsletter. T has been circulated to all members with e-mail facilities. If any of our postal members would like a copy, please send a stamped ad addressed DLE size envelope.

GULF OF MEXICO MEMORIES More nautical reminiscences by ZL1BRS- Syd Sutherland #9013

Because of the widespread publicity about the disastrous hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico recently I was prompted to contribute this short article that may be of interest to some of our readers.

During my employment as a Marine Radio Officer I sent a few months on the British registered T2 class oil tanker STV "Esso Birmingham" - GTYS which usually would have been running mainly between the Persian Gulf and European ports. The T2 class were British designed, basic tankers that were mass built in the U.S.A. to replace the heavy shipping losses during WW.2. They were about 10,050 G.T. with turbine engines that gave them a service speed of about 14 or 15 knots. These tankers were in service for over twenty years after the end of the war. They were used by many different oil companies and gave reliable service during that time.

Because of the Suez crisis, "Esso Birmingham", along with many other tankers, was re-routed to the Venezuela/Gulf of Mexico trade. Our USA. Ports were Port Aransas, Corpus Christi and Baytown in Texas & Baton Rouge in Louisiana. Being in the hurricane zone it was necessary to keep a sharp watch on the local coast radio stations for weather reports and warnings. These stations were owned and operated very efficiently by RCA and IT&T so their Morse transmissions were easy to monitor. Regular and powerful stations in this area were WOE/Lantana, Florida - KLC/Galveston, Texas - WNU/Slidell, Louisiana and WPA/Port Arthur, Texas - the last two localities being devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



STV "ESSO BIRMINGHAM"

THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF OHM'S LAW

The three elements that form the basis of Ohm's Law are named after brilliant scientists from three different countries. Ohm was German, Volta Italian and Ampere French. Thanks to "Biographies.ms" we can read about some of their discoveries and achievements that largely affect what we do when we practice our hobby.

Georg Ohm: The Ohm is the SI (standard international) derived unit of electrical resistance (derived from the Ampere and the watt). Its symbol is the Greek capital letter omega (Ω). The Ohm is named for Georg Ohm, a German physicist who discovered the relation between Voltage and current, expressed in Ohm's Law.

By definition from Ohm's Law, a device has a resistance of one Ohm if a Voltage of one Volt will cause a current of one Ampere to flow ($R = V/I$). Alternatively and equivalently, a device that dissipates one watt of power with one Ampere of current flowing through it has a resistance of one Ohm ($R = P/I^2$).

One thousand Ohms is called a kilohm (not kilo-Ohm), and abbreviated $k\Omega$. One million Ohms is called a megohm (not mega-Ohm), and abbreviated $M\Omega$. Other orders of magnitude follow standard SI conventions.

A measurement in Ohms is the reciprocal of a measurement in Siemens, the SI unit of electrical conductance. Note that 'Siemens' is both singular and plural. The reciprocal of the Ohm is also called the mho, from Ohm written backwards. The complex quantity impedance is a generalisation of resistance. Its real part is resistance and its imaginary part is reactance. For consistency, impedance, resistance and reactance all have units of Ohms.

The Ohm is since 1990 maintained internationally using the quantum Hall effect, where a conventional value is used for the 'von Klitzing constant', fixed by the 18th CGPM as $R_{(K-90)} = 25812.807 \Omega$.

André-Marie Ampère: In physics, the Ampere (symbol: A, often informally abbreviated to amp) is the SI base unit used to measure electrical currents. The present definition, adopted by the 9th CGPM in 1948 is: "one Ampere is that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed one metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to 2×10^{-7} Newton per metre of length". The definition for the Ampere is equivalent to fixing a value of the permeability of vacuum to $\mu_0 = 4 \pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$. Prior to 1948, the so-called "international Ampere" was used, defined in terms of the electrolytic deposition rate of silver. It is equal to 0.99985 Ampere.

The Ampere is named after André-Marie Ampère, one of the main discoverers of electromagnetism.

The Ampere is most accurately realised using a Ampere balance, but is in practise maintained via Ohm's Law from the units of Voltage and resistance, the Volt and the Ohm.

The unit of electric charge, the coulomb, is defined in terms of the Ampere: one coulomb is the amount of electric charge carried in a current of one Ampere flowing for one second.

Since the current is the rate at which charge flows through a surface, and an Ampere measures current, one Ampere is equal to a flow of one coulomb per second: $A = C/s$. Since a coulomb is approximately equal to 6.24×10^{18} elementary charges, one Ampere is equivalent to 6.24×10^{18} elementary charges moving through a surface in one second. Using the SI definitions for the conventional values of the Josephson and von Klitzing constants, the Ampere can be defined as exactly $6.241\ 509\ 629\ 152\ 65 \times 10^{18}$ elementary charges per second.

Alessandro Volta: Volta was born and educated in Como, Italy, where he became professor of physics at the Royal School in 1774. His passion had always been the study of electricity, and still a young student he had even written a poem in Latin on this fascinating new discovery. *De vi attractiva ignis electrici ac phaenomenis inde pendentibus* is his first scientific paper.

In 1775 he devised the electrophorus, a device that produced a static electric charge. In 1776-77 he studied the chemistry of gases, discovered methane, and devised experiments such as the ignition of gases by an electric spark in a closed vessel. In 1779 he became professor of physics at the University of Pavia, a chair he occupied for 25 years. In 1794 Volta married Teresa Peregrini, daughter of Count Ludovico Peregrini; the couple had three sons.

In 1800, as the result of a professional disagreement over the galvanic response advocated by Luigi Galvani, he developed the so-called Voltaic pile, a forerunner of the electric battery, which produced a steady electric current. Volta had determined that the most effective pair of dissimilar metals to produce electricity was zinc and silver. Initially he experimented with individual cells in series, each cell being a wine goblet filled with brine into which the two dissimilar electrodes were dipped. The electric pile replaced the goblets with cardboard soaked in brine. (The number of cells, and thus the Voltage it could produce, was limited by the pressure, exerted by the upper cells, that would squeeze all of the brine out of the cardboard of the bottom cell.)

In honour of his work in the field of electricity, Napoleon made him a count in 1810; in 1815 the Emperor of Austria named him a professor of philosophy at Padova. Volta is buried in the city of Como in Italy: the Tempio Voltiano near Lake Como is a museum devoted to explaining his work; his original instruments and papers are on display there. The building appeared, along with his portrait, on Italian currency on the 10000-lira note before the introduction of the euro.

In 1881 the important electrical unit, the Volt, was named in his honour.

JAPANESE "MORSE" CODE**Katakana Code**

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-	ム

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--	タ
--	ヨ

..	ラ
--	ウ
--	ナ
--	ヤ
--	ホ
--	フ
--	リ
--	レ

....	ヌ
....	ク
....	チ
....	ノ
....	カ
....	ロ
....	ツ
....	ヲ
....	ハ
....	マ
....	ニ
....	ケ
....	フ
....	ネ
....	ソ
....	コ

.....	5	----	6
.....	4	----	メ
.....	3	----	ユ
.....	ト	----	キ
.....	ミ	----	サ
.....	。	----	ル
.....	2	----	エ
.....	オ	----	七
.....	ヰ	----	ヒ
.....	ン	----	シ
.....	テ	----	ア
.....	ヱ	----	日
.....	一	----	ス
.....	セ	----	九
.....	1	----	〇

The structure of the Japanese language is similar to Maori in that consonant/vowel combinations are used to form words. Japanese has a complex system of writing and there are three "alphabets" in use. The Kanji or Chinese characters are widely used. These are hieroglyphics and they give no guidance to the sounds or words they depict. On the other hand there are two other phonetic scripts in use, Hiragana and Katakana. Hiragana is widely used but it is the Katakana script that comprises 46 characters, interests us here.

The Imperial Japanese Navy was assisted in its development and training by the Royal Navy. When a need for an equivalent to the Morse code arose, the British assisted the Japanese in creating a code that was based on the Katakana script. This code became the standard for use in Japan, not only for use in naval communications but all military traffic as well as commercial and later amateur transmissions.

During WW2 a number of allied personnel, including New Zealanders, were trained in the use of the code and Japanese military traffic was closely monitored, especially after the Japanese codes were broken. A Japanese submarine was forced to beach after a small NZ warship rammed it, and the code books from the submarine were captured.

Often in VK and ZL in the evenings one can hear

Japanese amateur CW operators rag chewing away in the Katakana (Kana) code. They will call CQ followed by the combination DO, the DO indicating that they wish to communicate in the Kana code. When they wish to revert from Kana to the international code they will send the code SN.

Katakana characters

ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
a	i	u	e	o
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
sa	shi	su	se	so
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
ta	chi	tsu	te	to
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
ha	hi	fu	he	ho
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
ヤ	ヤ	ユ	ヨ	ヨ
ya	ya	yu	yo	yo
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
ワ	ン			ヲ
wa	n			wo

There are other "ethnic" codes, such as Russian, Hebrew, Arabic, Korean, etc, but none is as widely used as the Katakana code.

That's all for this month folks, so I'll say:

DO ■●●■■■■
 SA ■●■●■■●■
 YO ■■■■■
 U ●●■■■
 NA ●■■■■
 RA ●●●●

 SN ●●●●■■●



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – December 2005

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SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)
18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new member ZL2ALJ-Tony Fletcher #9657. Tony lives in Island Bay Wellington.

Tony has already made some FISTS contacts on air. He writes about himself: - I came across amateur radio on the forty-metre band whilst tuning the family LW/MW/SW receiver - that was in 1946. I soon met another local SWL when I progressed to an O-v-1 and swept across listening!! From there I joined the local radio club in Cheltenham England and after a while cottoned on to CW and have continued to enjoy it as my main means of communication. Because of accidents and hospitalisation it was not until 1956 that I got my call G3LDA and was let loose on 160 metres with a homebrew CW/AM 10watter. Then came HF with various homebrew and commercial rigs feeding simple wire aerials. In 1973 I came to New Zealand and got my present call ZL2ALJ and have been a member of the Wellington Amateur Radio Club since early 1974. I use all the bands - when conditions allow - hunting DX as well as local rag chewing. I have an interest in QRP, plus I fire up an old ZC1 from time to time. Ham radio still fascinates me with all its facets of operation and I especially enjoy rattling out some CW either on a hand key or bug. – Tony is looking for FISTS contacts – arrange through zl2alj@paradise.net.nz

Welcome also to ZL1ARB-Peter Smith #9658 whose QTH is West Harbour, Auckland. We hope to have Peter's personal profile in a later edition of FISTS Down Under

OUR MEMBERS' NEWS

We forgot to report that ZL1BHQ-John #9625 was appointed as the NZART Contest Manager. Congratulations John. A perusal of each issue of Break In shows that several of our members are active in many ways - with the management of our hobby, contributing articles and appearing in contest results.

Our grateful thanks to VK3CGB-Chris #9087 who sent a generous donation when he renewed his subscription

ZL2CB-Chas #9645 and VK2IOW #Patrick-9609 have new e-mail addresses that can be checked in the attached membership list. - If you change your e-mail address, or your QTH please remember to inform us. This applies equally to the e-mail addresses of our readers in UK FISTS. It involves time and sometimes expense to follow up when e-mail messages or letters are returned. It seems that from a comment in the latest NZART HQ Info-Line they are experiencing the same problem! We are not in a position to follow up on UK FISTS e-mail addresses. If any of them bounces it is deleted from our address book.

ZL1DD-Barry #9029 is thanked for organising the 2005 Straight Key Night on 6 November. A good proportion of the signals heard were from FISTS Down Under members. We have taken the opportunity of sending a promotional brochure to those we heard who aren't members, as their interest in Morse makes them good candidates. Barry is going to recover and celebrate a milestone birthday by taking a trip to Cambodia. We have advised him to avoid poultry farms. (He tells us that "chicken farms" have a different connotation in that part of the world!)

VK 3QB/SM0YKS-Chris #9085 who has been working in Sweden, is expecting to return to Australia early in the New Year. He writes - I've had some very interesting experiences operating portable from the Arctic Circle, also portable in Italy, Spain, Finland, Norway... and some very interesting propagation too! About 2 weeks ago I managed my first VK QSO on 18Mhz,

which was actually quite a thrill - one VK QSO after 3 years – but no ZLs....!! I also made it to the RGSB HFC Conference last month, which was a load of fun - met up with Jim VK9NS and many other really nice blokes. – Chris has promised to send us an article about his time in Sweden.

In another radio publication, New Zealand DX Times, **ZL4AJS-Andrew #9632** is reported as logging short wave broadcasts. He is keeping his hand in (or should that be his ears) for when the bands improve for CW operation.

Vk4KSS-Adam #9619 has a new call **VK4IM**. He also has a new e-mail address, so check the attached membership list.

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

We received this message from **G0HFX-Chris #0236** in Trowbridge, Wiltshire: - Many thanks for the latest "Down Under" newsletter.

Well a little bit of news for you and your colleagues. If all goes well during Jan & Feb 2006, a friend G0BBL and I will be "Down Under" but still a long way from you.

We will hopefully sailing on a tall ship in Antarctic waters for over 3 weeks. We have provisional permission to operate from on board ship and will look for an opportunity to operate from some of the islands we hope to visit. We are making enquiries to obtain a VP8 call and also LU & CE calls to operate from the Tierra del Fuego islands group and hope to make an entry in the ARRL CW contest during our stay.

If all goes according to plan we will be using CW only - the bands activated will depend very much on practicalities and expected propagation conditions.

When more definite details are available I will send them to you. 73 to you and all there in VK & ZL.

Another contribution comes from our Italian correspondent, **I2VRF-Gian #8325**: - Thanks for your bulletin always in time and rich on information. Very interesting concerning "The Tree Musketeers" of electricity.

As for the appeal of K4UK I think that he is rightly worried, but 28, 24, 21, 18, MHz, in my QTH, are so mute that I often I'm doubting if my ICOM is still operating on these bands. The United States comes in by night (my night, from 00:00 to 07:00 local, on 14 and 7.

Nevertheless I try to call during the day also on other bands. My last VK/ZL QSOs were with David, VK3DBD on Oct. 4 d Z2CD, Bill on Oct 14 and ZL6QH on Oct 9.

I agree that telegraphy is considered to be obsolete for commercial, military, aeronautical and marine TLC. But in many cases it may be the only intelligible way of exchange a QTC.

According the Italian Postal regulations, amateur communications are considered a " service of technical education with no profit" and till now it was mandatory to pass the CW test to get the licence for HF, while for VHF and upper was only necessary the theory test. From now on, in Italy the CW test is no more required and the same I read for other countries.

It is encouraging however see how many new comers are now operating on high bands using CW that the ARI branches have not ceased to teach.

The day after the November newsletter was dispatched we received this from **N7CFA-Ed #1402**: - Probably the most interesting part of the newsletter to me was the article on the Japanese "Morse" code. Two evenings ago I heard a JH9/MM calling CQ. He was the only signal on 20 meters. Another JA picked him up and they worked awhile, but I could not figure out anything they were sending, except he sent some "English" at the end of the QSO. I gave him a call (30 watts) and he came back to me, giving me a 577-signal report. The ship was off to the West of Hawaii at the time. So now I think I know what they were sending. It must have been the Katakana Code. Very interesting.

M0BPT-Rob #5576, the UK FISTS Contests Manager has formulated a new activity for 2006. The details are in the attached. "Awards News"

MY EXPERIENCES OF LEARNING TO BE PROFICIENT IN MORSE CODE

Another "sort of" sequel to last months item on Katakana code

By David Smith ZL2WT #9067

In the early sixties I was having a miserable time, firmly stuck at the bottom of the 'C-stream' of the local grammar school. I hated school and apart from having a good knowledge of radio and electronics, I excelled in little else. Entering one of the armed services as a trainee radio technician would have been an ideal escape from the situation, but colour-blindness precluded that option. The careers' master had had the excellent idea of putting the 'careers notice board' adjacent to where we queued for the school tuck-shop. One day, when waiting for the tuck-shop to open I noticed that on the board there was a letter from Grimsby College of Further Education advertising a training course leading to qualification as a ship' radio officer. Without hesitation, I applied to join the course and was invited to be interviewed by the Head of the Nautical Studies Department, Captain Sidney Keene. At the interview, Captain Keene advised me to "back-pedal on my electronics study and to learn the Morse code".

On returning home, I referred to my Boy Scout diary and found that there was an easy way of learning the code – you visualised the dots and dashes making up the alphabetic characters. For instance, A was a dot at the apex of the A and a dash across the symbol; B was a vertical dash with three dots to the right whilst a character such as F was two dots at the top, a horizontal dash and a dot at the bottom. If I ever meet the guy who invented this aide-de-memoir, I'd like to buy him a pint of beer – and then pour it all over him! It took a long time for my brain to replace those visual images of dots and dashes with the aural recognition of dits and dahs.

My first day at Grimsby was also the first day on the staff for ex Royal Navy CPO Telegraphist Len Townsend. Len was a brilliant telegraphist, a true gentleman and was totally unflappable. As one of Len's ex students said to me recently "I've never known anyone who didn't respect and like Len Townsend".

I was one of Len's greatest challenges. I remember my end-of-term Morse test at Christmas 1964. I had just sent the zero character as a string of 6 irregular dashes. Len looked up from his desk and said: "Mr Smith, during the war I was sent back to naval telegraphy school to learn Katakana Morse code. I found it very difficult, as International Morse was so ingrained in my brain. However, Mr Smith, you are absolutely brilliant, here am I teaching you International Morse and you have learnt Japanese Morse!"

Well, Len and I struggled with Morse code for two and a half years before a sympathetic PMG examiner got tired of giving me retests and awarded me a 2nd Class PMG certificate. I then took a few months off to do the BOT Radar Maintenance course, which I found easy. My father told me he wanted me to sit for the 1st Class ticket and as my parents had been funding me through college; it seemed only fair to give it a go. I walked into the Morse room and told Len Townsend that I was joining his advanced telegraphy class. He went very pale, turned away, walked over to his operating console and sat down. I was worried that he was going to have a heart attack, but no, he just quietly said, "Sit down Mr Smith, put your headphones on and we will start with ten minutes of plain language at 22wpm".

Nobody expected that Len could get me up to the 1st Class standard, but once I had passed the Part One theory examinations, he spent hours giving me extra tuition. When the day for the examination arrived, we found that there were two examiners – the senior PMG examiner and a trainee. At the end of all the formal testing, it was no surprise to be called back into the Morse room to be retested on my sending. After a minute or so of excruciating 25wpm, the senior examiner held up his hand and said "Can we have it at 23 words per minute please?" So I started to send a little slower and he interrupted saying, "That's better, you'll find your speed will increase once you get to sea". A couple of weeks later I was in possession of a coveted red 1st Class certificate.

Captain Keene was full of praise for Len's achievement, but all he could say to me was "You better join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary – they use teleprinters instead of Morse". - So I did.



In 1967 most RFA ships used RTTY for reception of naval traffic but Morse was still the primary mode for transmission. The first few years were quite a struggle – with one exception, I never felt at ease with Morse communication. The one good period of successful and enjoyable operating happened in the South Pacific. The tanker RFA Orangeleaf was assigned a few easy duties, such as supporting the RFA Sir Percivale and HMY Britannia. Sir Percivale was stationed off Muroroa to monitor the French atomic bomb tests and Britannia was on her way home from New Zealand. We had five R/Os on that ship – I had the graveyard watch. We had a wide variety of choices of stations to clear traffic through, but I discovered the joys of working the New Zealand Navy radio station at Irirangi. Each night I would have a pile of navy and commercial messages to clear, I would call Irirangi on 6 or

8MHz and he would reply straight away and take the messages in a friendly and unhurried way. They became very good mates indeed when they gave us a message to proceed to Pago Pago and then lost the message telling us to sail. If it wasn't for our Captain going ashore a week later to send a telegram to London, we might still be there, tied up alongside the Rainmaker Intercontinental Hotel and not having a care in the world!

After that trip I was selected to spend the best part of a year on the RFA "Long Course" which was held at Marconi College, HMS Mercury, HMS Collingwood and Creed Teleprinter School. Subsequently I became a "Radio Maintenance Officer" and rarely had to keep watches again.

One day I received a letter from the Radio Officers' Union asking me to apply for the position of Junior Lecturer in Marine Electronics at Brunel College in Bristol.

I applied, was selected for the job and was given the course notes to study so I'd be ready to start teaching on the first day of the next term. I dutifully studied the syllabus and was confident of being able to teach would-be Radio Officers all about radio and electronics. On my first day at the new job, I went to the staff room and searched for my name on the staff allocation list. Other tutors were teaching the two new entrant classes, Phil Brouder had the second year electronics, Lofty Allen had second year telegraphy, someone else was assigned to radar, and then I found my name – right at the bottom of the list – Mr David Smith – First Year Telegraphy. I could have cried – how on earth did the worst telegraphist to sail the seven seas get to be assigned such a role.



As I walked to the telegraphy room I thought of the teaching methods of Len Townsend. "Dit dah – write down A, dah dit dit dit – write down B, dah dit dah dit – write down C". Within two terms, many of the students could receive my Morse at 20wpm. I started having nightmares – perhaps I had taught 40 new R/Os to send and receive Japanese Morse – I knew that they could read my Morse and read each other's sending, but would they be able to communicate with all the other telegraphists out there?

There was only one thing for it. I resigned, caught a plane to New Zealand and signed on a ship on the trans-Tasman run. Maritime Morse communication "down-under" was easy, unhurried and most enjoyable.

By 1974 it was time to come ashore, retrain as a computer engineer and for 25 years I forgot all about dots and dashes.

Then one day, I was reflecting on unfulfilled ambitions. I remembered that I had always wanted to be able to send clear, crisp and rhythmic Morse code. I started asking around about the present day use of Morse and discovered that Portishead Radio and many other stations had closed a few months previously. The only way I could attempt to achieve my ambition was via amateur radio. I applied for a radio amateur's licence and borrowed a transceiver. Tuning up and down the bands, I was amazed at the high quality of some of the Morse sending. Every second operator had a sending style somewhat similar to Len Townsend. It was a few weeks before I discovered that during my absence in listening to the short waves, the automatic iambic paddle Morse key had become popular and operators using the conventional straight key were now in the minority.

It is true, that knowing Morse is like riding a bike – you can never forget it. So when I heard ZL1AIH (an ex R/O) calling CQ on 80 metres I instinctively put my hand to the Morse key to call him. As my wrist worked the key, I suddenly broke out in a cold sweat, realising that I had not touched a key for 25 years and it would have been a good idea to have had a practice session before going on the air!

A few evenings later I joined a Morse Improvement Group and was invited to send at my top speed – probably somewhere around 25wpm. Then the reports came back from the members of the group – only one of them could read my sending and that operator happened to be an expert in reception of the Japanese Katakana Morse code. Oh dear!

The perfect ending to this article would have been to tell you that through diligent practice, I now have a sending style that is a joy to listen to. An appropriate comment might be the derogatory slogan used in the adverts of a local brewing company - "Yeah Right!"

I have several friends who are ex R/Os and active in amateur radio. Most of them can send beautifully rhythmic Morse, but some of them tell me that as they get older, the quality of their sending is deteriorating. I wonder if the opposite is achievable?

This article will also appear in the December 2005 issue of QRZ the magazine of the Radio Operators Amateur Radio Society

FISTS DOWN UNDER ARCHIVES

Ralph is looking for a volunteer who is able to store the FISTS Down Under archives. These are contained (so far) in seven neat mini A-4 lever arch files. As Ralph lives in a small apartment, he has limited storage space. His only other available space is in his garage where things tend to get damp if stored for long periods.

A NEW RESOLUTION TO KEEP

A good number of New Year resolutions fail to last more than a few days. Giving up smoking, going teetotal becoming a vegetarian have all been tried but rarely persist.

So here's a suggested resolution that could really stick. How about stopping moaning about the state of the bands and use the time you would otherwise be scouring the bands by doing something to improve your set-up related to amateur radio, or involve yourself in some other facet of our hobby.

A lot of frustrated hams have decided to improve their antenna systems, particularly in support of operations on the lower bands. In fact 160 metres has lately become a more popular band. That should improve your chances of contacts. (Be careful when working aloft – have someone on hand to assist.)

If you aren't already involved, it might be a good time to offer to assist in the administration of your club. We are sure that the hard-working committees would welcome a new face. You could set up a specialist Morse section in your club and offer training and assistance to new chums. In spite of the demise of the Morse requirement, there is a continuing interest, especially when the erstwhile no-coders realise that their chances of making contacts is greatly enhanced when using the code.

If you are house-bound, you can still put your thoughts down on paper and send the result to us here – we would be delighted to be in a position of having plenty to choose from in compiling FISTS Down Under. We would rather include original material than having to poach from other sources.

So there it is people, get resolving, and this time stick to it. If you have any other suggestions for New Year resolutions, share them with us.

THE YEAR IN RESTROSPECT AND SEASONAL GREETINGS

The state of the bands in the past year has been disappointing for our members (and everyone else for that matter!). There have been limited contacts between members and this has been reflected in reports in our columns. However, some members have managed to persevere and achieve awards. It takes somewhat longer than at the peak of propagation, but makes it more of a challenge and that increases satisfaction.

Because of ill health and other considerations, the United Kingdom chapter ran into management problems during the year and we were able and happy to assist them. Initially we provided a set of addressed labels for their Key Note distribution. Later we undertook the distribution of Key Note and FISTS Down Under to their members who receive them by e-mail - this is ongoing.

The FISTS chapter of our friends in East Asia continues to expand. They conduct regular nets and have produced some interesting newsletters. We have distributed these to our members who receive e-mail newsletters.

In the Americas FISTS continues to grow as is shown by the numbers appearing in the monthly membership reports. Unfortunately our own growth has slowed – something our members could do something about by

encouraging people to join. Contacts at amateur radio gatherings, club meetings and on air are all opportunities that should not be missed. It would be great if every one of us gained a new member during the New Year. How about that for another New Year resolution? It would help to offset some of our recent losses. A membership brochure is included in this mailing –please use it.



This is our final edition of FISTS Down Under for 2005. After a holiday break we will be back with the February 2006 edition that will be accompanied with our customary half yearly full membership lists. In the meantime we wish all our members, their families and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy new year of good health, peace and a vast improvement in propagation.

We look forward to receiving from you more feed back by means of contributions of stories, articles, as well as photographs, suggestions and even complaints.

Thanks to all our members and readers for your continued support and interest

From the FISTS Down Under Team, *Nigel ZL2TX, Chris VK2TCN and Ralph ZL2AOH*



Gallery at the Louvre - Painted by Samuel F B Morse
(Sent with Christmas wishes from FISTS member NPØLE-Nick #000)

AWARDS UPDATE

G3ZQS W.A.R.C BAND CHALLENGE

This challenge is separate from all other activities in the FISTS calendar.

Period of challenge: 00.01 1st January 2006 to 23.59 31st December 2006.

Bands 30M, 17M & 12M

Rules

Mode: C.W. Only

Scoring: 1 point non members, 2 points FISTS members, 3 points FISTS club stations.

Exchange: FISTS number and IARU locator square. Each square can be used as a multiplier for the total number of contacts made during the year. However for the locator square to be eligible for a multiplier, a club member must have been worked within the square.

Eg: G9XYZ scores 2,400 points and 12 different locator squares. $2,400 \times 12 = 28800$ points.

Repeat stations: These can only be worked a maximum of four times in a month.

Awards:

Outright winner: Trophy with call, year, etc, Engraved.

1st Runner up: certificate

2nd Runner up: Certificate

Logs:

A certificate will also be awarded to the highest points scored by a QRP entrant. (Max 5w output at the transmitter) endorsed accordingly; therefore all entrants must declare their power output.

Monthly returns by the 14th. By email in excel format if possible please to: m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

Land mail to: Rob Walker M0BPT, 38, Wheatley Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 9TJ, England.

General:

The purpose of the challenge is to promote activity on the WARC Bands it is not a contest

CALL "CQ FISTS" on or around the following frequencies;

30m 10.118 MHz - 17m 18.085 MHz - 12m 24.918 MHz

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT – FISTS PRIZES

Fists Down Under is sponsoring prizes for the winners of each section of the NZART Straight Key Night event.

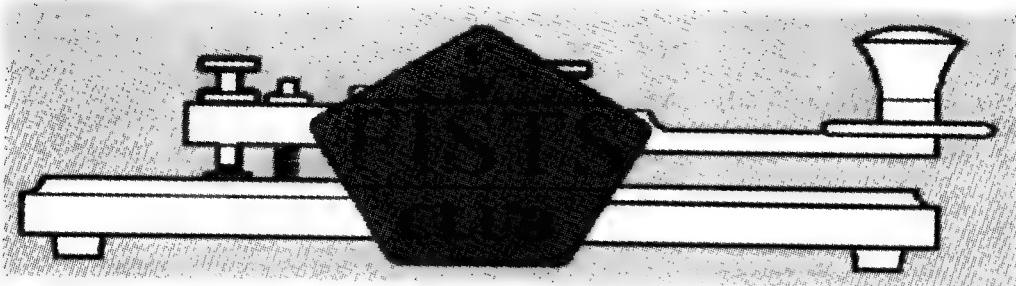
The prizes consist of a year's subscription to FISTS Down Under and a certificate.

If a winner is an existing FISTS Down Under member it means that their subscription will be extended by twelve months. For others it means that they receive a new membership for one year.

We hope that our Australian members will nominate a similar Australian CW-only event for FISTS Down Under sponsorship.



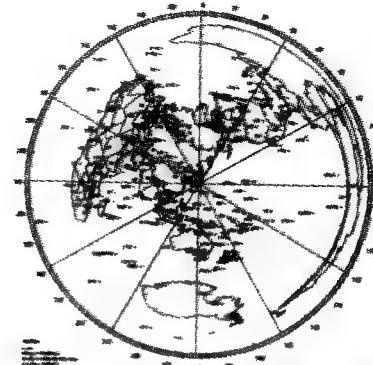
International Morse Preservation Society
FISTS
East Asia Chapter



Newsletter

▲ morsEAsia ▲

December 2005



<http://www.feacw.net/>

Hello Fellow FISTS,

As the proverb goes, time flies like an arrow. Indeed, I feel it was just the other day when I rejoined FISTS EA in this early summer. And now, Christmas is almost here. Having chats with the members on the air almost everyday, I came to feel like they were good old friends of mine even though I've never met them before. Chatting with CW, especially for us non-native English speakers, is worth trying to learn and get the skills. Learning English composition and a lot of words and phrases by ourselves, and of course, head copying the Morse Code which our friends send, really capture our heart. I can say that it's a great hobby we are able to enjoy throughout our lives.

In this issue, I introduce some messages of the members and a special contribution of an old timer in ZL. I sincerely hope you will enjoy your good holidays and have a happy new year in 2006.

73 de JJ8KGZ/ Leo

Apology for the errors

In the previous issue, I wrote the callsign of I2VRF as I2VRS by mistake. And also His name is "Giancarlo", not "Giancarlo e Concetta". Sorry for my mistake.

QRVinfo

QRVinfo on the web site of FISTS EA is really handy to know who's currently on which frequency. You can spot yourself if you want to work with some FISTS EA members. The site is usually watched by members around 1200Z and you have to reload the page each time you want to see the latest information. Join us!

Messages from Members



Greetings

by

JG0MWU / Kenichi Kamata FISTS # 15015

Seasons greeting from snow country Nagano in JAPAN.
Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, dear FISTS members.
I hope that I can snowboard on deep powder snow as well in this winter.
I hope that I will get a license of first class radio amateur in Japan.
FB Cwing!

JG0MWU "Ken"





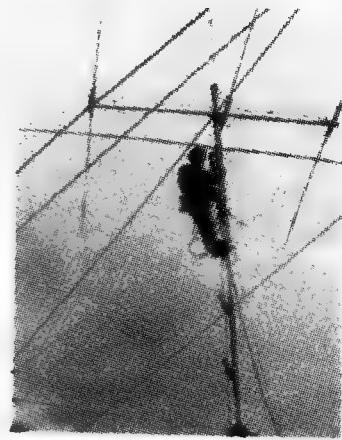
My Ham Life by

JG0SXC / Man Kabe FISTS # 8934

When I was very young, fourth grade at school, I belonged to an electronic engineering club. Then one of the members got a ham license and that was the first time I knew about ham radio. His achievement made me very much interested in it, but unfortunately I didn't have a chance to take the exam while I had kept playing on a BCL radio sometimes. Since then, there had been over ten years until I got a ham license during my student days. After I graduated from school, I eventually set up a tiny ham radio station with a very small and unique transceiver, a Mizuho Pico-21, which is a single band QRP rig for 15 meter. After that I bought a V/UHF rig and then my best friend of hams gave me an all mode & band HF rig, a yaesu FT-107 and my CW ham life got started from the time on.

My QTH, Nagano had a winter Olympic game in 1998 and I got a chance to take part in the members who maintained a special ham radio station for the event, '8N0WOG' and I kept providing some of QRV information of the station on my web page. It was one of the most impressive events in my ham life that one of the crews of a broadcasting company in USA gave me an email saying that he saw my web page and was very interested in it because he would visit Japan and work for the events during the Olympic Games in Nagano. He is Larry, N4VA, who is an active ham as a DX-peditioner and a QSL manager. I had the most exciting following couple of months I have ever had in my ham life!

We met many times through the winter. We sometimes had lunch and we together called on some DXers known as big-guns in the area sometimes. He also dropped in and enjoyed the drinking party that our local club had, yes, *Shin-nen kai*, a New-Year Party, hi. He gave me tickets of some games and I and my wife excitedly enjoyed an ice hockey game! Through ham radio, I just could make a good friend overseas and now think this hobby is one of the best ways to make good friends across the sea from the heart. Believe chatting with hams over the sea would give us a good chance to keep in contact or grow closer friendship internationally. Keep looking for any chances to meet you on the bands anytime.
73s JG0SXC Man.



A gift

by

JO3HPM / Naoyasu Hosoda FISTS # 15008

One day in April 2002, I worked Andre F5UKL on the 21MHz band. In those days, the power of my rig was 50W and my antenna was a dipole mounted on the veranda of the fourth floor of the apartment. He sent a signal report of only 229 to me. I sent 559 to him. The power of his rig was 100W and his antenna was a 5-element tri-band yagi. He lived in Pau near Spain. In addition, he said the weather was sunny and 9 degrees C.

Next day, I received an e-mail. The sender was Andre and he expressed his thanks simply. In the e-mail, an mp3 audio file was attached. The mp3 file surprised me. The sound of my signal, which was very weak like a mosquito flying sound, was recorded in it. I was impressed to hear the sound of my signal received in a foreign country. The RF signal emitted from my simple antenna with the power that was smaller than the room light power really reached the town in France where was 10200km away from Japan! When working with a DX station, I often remember that sound. I will never forget this small but wonderful and romantic gift. Thank you, Andre.



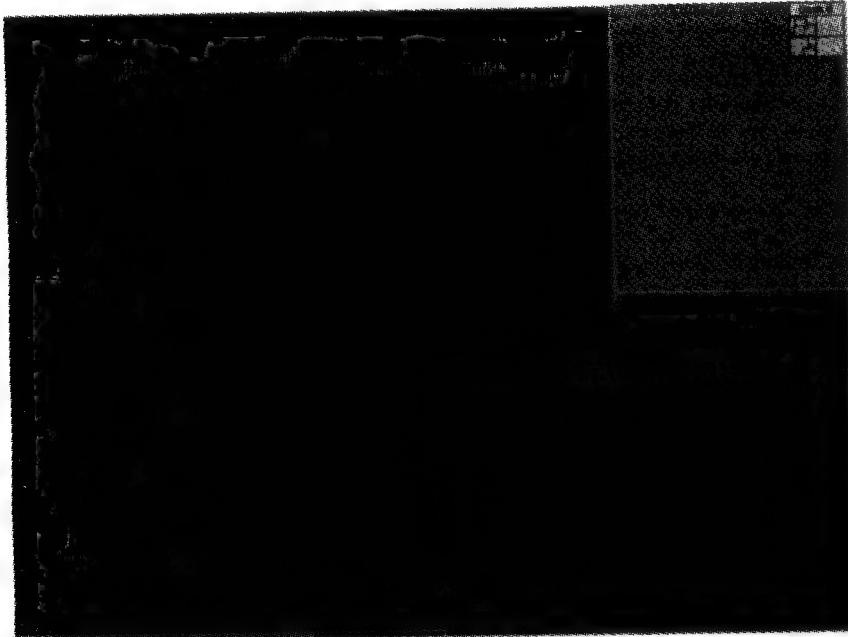
My CQ WW 2005 CW Logging System

by

JJ1BDX(3) es JO3FUO / Kenji Rikitake FISTS # 8962

Hello FISTS members: here's a brief report of my logging system and the result of CQ WW 2005 CW contest, with a 100W and a monoband vertical dipole station of mine. You can find out the radio system description on the previous (November 2005) issue of morsEAsia.

--- The Logging System ---



What you see on the console window image is a result of small Perl language script, the contest program I made for myself and have been using for 4 years. It only does dupe checking and recording the contact history. No fancy multiplier counting or CW sending function, but I'm happy with this little script. All I have to do is to enter the pair of callsign and received exchange, and hit Enter key twice for logging them in, or type *NO* to cancel. You can check out the duplicated contact *before* working a station by entering only a callsign. After the contest finishes, another script puts the finalized log records into a unified database of my whole QSOs since June 2002, running on MySQL and FreeBSD. I also prepare the scripts for exporting the ADIF or Cabrillo file for the electronic log submission.

I do not automate everything, however. I only use my computers as the scratchpad and searchable log, but I use the paddle and the memory keyer for sending the Morse Code. When I send the CQ loop, I let my keyer do it, not by my computer. Sending the callsign and contest exchange is the most enjoyable part of a contest, isn't it? I also *manually* tag the DXCC Country (or Entity) of each station I worked, though my computers count the Zones and help tabulating the result. Counting the multipliers is another fun part of the contest, at least for a small station like mine. (The right-down corner terminal window shows the result of a tentative counting of the contest score; it does nothing more than an electronic calculator, though.)

--- The Result ---

This year, my CQ WW CW category was Single Operator Low Power for the 20m Single Band. Since my station is very small comparing to the Big Guns, I almost always had to *search and pounce*, and rarely sent CQ. And I sleep at night and early morning during 15Z-22Z, when many other hard-core contestants might search for a new station, and when the band widely opens to the Caribbean, North America and Africa from Japan. I missed the early morning opening of the second day (22Z Nov 26 - 00Z Nov 27), so I could have worked even more NA East Coast stations. This year I worked 31 Zones, 69 DXCC "Countries" (or Entities), and 295 stations of 723 points. The total claimed score was 72,300 points. The list of worked 69 DXCC Entities were as follows:

4J 4L 4W 5B 5Z 8Q 9A 9M2 9N BV BY CE CT CX DL DU EA EI ER ES EU EX EY F FO HA HC8 HL HS I JA JT KH0 KH2 KH6 KL7 KP2 LU LX LY LZ OH OK OM ON PY S5 SM SP T8 TI TZ UA0 UA1 UA2 UN UR VE VK 'VK9C VR W XU YB YL YO YU ZL ZP

The Zones I could *not* work were: 2, 6, 9, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, and 40.

Actually I enjoyed the contest very much, especially with only a *vertical dipole* and merely 100W. You surely would not achieve this result on SSB or on RTTY. CW rocks!

73 de Kenji, JJ1BDX(/3) es JO3FUO



feacw.net is in trouble

by

JL3AMK / Harry Shibata FISTS # 15002

Some people have reported that they can't access <http://www.feacw.net>.
And also emails to someone@feacw.net are rejected.

I examined and found why they can't access. The reason is; unfriendly sites are in the same web server. The owner of the server is the hosting service provider. One server has many users; same IP address, but different domain names, like jl3amk.org and feacw.net. Some of users in our server have no manners, so some providers block by our IP address.

I asked the support team of our provider to solve this trouble, but they did nothing. So I decided to make a mirror site.

Maybe you will be able to access <http://www.fists-ea.org> even if you can't find <http://www.feacw.net>. If you can't access both sites, please let me know.

Regards,

Harry, JL3AMK
webadmin@fists-ea.org (or jl3amk@arrl.net)



Recently

by

JR0QWW/ "Taro" Seitaro Iguchi FISTS # 5578

Recently, I have been so busy due to some change of my working environment. My last activity of radio was the mobile QRV in the city of Tainai, Niigata pref.. Not allowed to operate at home, I occasionally enjoy QSOs from my automobile station. Especially, I enjoy 40m this season because I can have QSOs with some unexpected stations. The other day, I got burned on my hand by high frequency when I touch the paddle while I was operating 15m on my car. Since then, I have not operated 17m and 15m. A pleasant QSO lately I had is with WL7 station on 20m. It seems that I won't be able to change this working environment for a long moment, so I am going to contrive to QRV as I try to find the time. My signal is so feeble that you have to listen with all your ears but your call will be a great pleasure to me. 73 de JR0QWW/Taro





Another gaijin in Japan

by

ZL2CD / William Hamer FISTS # 9004

After reading the excellent report in your October 2005 issue by my friend Ralph ZL2AOH "The amateur radio experiences of a gaijin in Japan" I am tempted to relate my own 3 visits to JA.

The first was in 1947 when I was selected to go to Japan as a technician / announcer at a New Zealand (NZ) forces radio station at Yuda, a suburb of Yamaguchi. I was duly seconded into the Army with the rank of Sergeant and did some basic Army training in NZ. I had already served some years as a technician in NZ radio broadcasting at that time. The radio station was there to provide news and entertainment for the NZ occupation troops in the NZ sector of occupied Japan.



The transmitter was locally built and on the A.M. band (1430 kHz) with a power of about 750 watts. It used a pair of Eimac 250TH's in the final. The antenna was a top-loaded vertical erected by Japanese workmen. It was strung between two 75 feet masts overlooking some rice fields. The modulators were a pair of 100TH's series modulated. The callsign of the station was AKAA.

The officer-in-charge was Lin Martin ZL2AAX and both he and I obtained ham calls in Japan. Lin's was J4AAH and I became J4AAZ.

I communicated on C.W. with many ZL hams using the broadcast aerial when it was off the air. My transmitter was home-built using a spare Eimac 100TH in the final. It was CW only, on the 40 metre band. I still have the ex-JA airflow key that I used then, and still use it for my CW contacts.

We later opened a relay station WLKY at Chofu, near Shimoniseki. This was the site of the NZ Army Headquarters. It was situated in the Kobe steel works buildings. This station could relay AKAA or originate its own programmes.

Besides constructing and operating the two stations I travelled all over Japan to anywhere there were NZ troops, to record documentaries for broadcasting over the National network in NZ. We also recorded messages from NZ troops to the folks back home.

One memorable broadcast was from the site of a major earthquake at Fukui in 1945. We just happened to be in the area recording a documentary in Osaka at the Mainichi newspaper works. Mainichi printed the NZ forces newspaper "Jayforce Times". We received news of the quake while there and hurried to Fukui lugging our recording gear on a rickety old suburban train. We were the first foreigners to broadcast to the world news of the tragedy. Quite a scoop!

Another memorable broadcast was from the Imperial palace in Tokyo and the changing of the guard outside the Emperor's palace in which NZ troops participated.

My second visit to Japan was in 1970 when I helped install sound equipment at the NZ pavilion of the Expo 70 in Osaka. The equipment was provided by Toshiba who had previously built broadcast equipment for Broadcasting House in Wellington in 1962/63. Incidentally at that time I was in charge of the installation of that equipment, the first all-solid state broadcast system in the world. While in Osaka, I visited the local branch of J.A.R.L. whose members treated me wonderfully. The fact that I was at the time President of the NZ counterpart (N.Z.A.R.T.) no doubt helped. I still have a plaque which they presented me with, and which hangs on the wall of my shack. It bears the names of JA3AA (Shima), JA3USA (Shimamoto), JA3KGF (A young boy), JA3AD (Tsujimura), JA3ANH (Watanabi), JA3QY (Hidewhi), JA3FNJ (Higuchi), JA3BQU (Mitu), and JA3ATJ (Sakai). I wonder if these people are still around.

The next and probably final visit to Japan was in 1984 when I went with my late XYL Nita and about 30 other ex-Jayforce soldiers and partners on a nostalgic trip around Japan. We visited some of the sites where NZ service personnel had served during the Occupation from 1946 to 1948. It was a completely different Japan to what we remembered in those days! I could not find the exact site of our camp where we had our radio station in Yuda.

It had been built over by a large supermarket and I was only able to determine where it was by tracing the route I remembered from the railway station. I did however recognize the site of what used to be called the "Kiwi Club". It was a recreation centre for the Kiwi troops. It is now a multi-story hotel called the "Tanaka". I was, however able to find a little Japanese style garden where we used to wander. It is now part of the hotel complex.

While in Hiroshima I met two JA hams who I had previously worked from NZ on six metres - JA4MBM (Hide) and JA4EKO (Seko). They took Nita and I to Seko's shack high up in the hills behind Hiroshima. What a shack! It had previously been the site of a TV station and Seko's six metre antennas were on the TV's huge towers. No wonder he puts such a strong signal into ZL!. Also present were JA4HTW(Yoiji), JA4IUO(Yoshimara) and JH4GJR(Toshiya). They treated my XYL and I to a sumptuous JA style meal.

These then are my memories of Japan in brief. I cannot speak too highly of the hospitality we received on our visits. We were always treated like emperors! Thank you JA hams.

FISTS EA Activities

Suggested Calling Frequencies

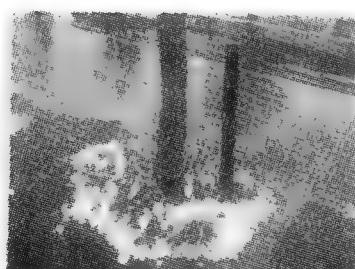
You can find FISTS members on/near following recommended calling frequencies.
QSO's should be QSY'd another frequency.

FISTS	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	2m
East Asia	-	-	-	10.118					28.058		
				10.138	14.058	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.158	-	-
				(*1)					(*2)		
HQ/Europe	-	3.558	7.028	-	14.058	-	21.058	-	28.058	-	-
North America	1.808	3.558	7.028		10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.058	
		3.708	7.058					21.158	28.158	50.058	144.058
Down Under									24.918	28.058	
								21.158	28.158	-	-
QRP calling freqs	-	-	-	10.106	14.060	18.086	21.060	24.906	28.060	-	-
(*3)				10.116		18.096	21.110	24.910	28.110		

(*1) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use 10.130 to 10.150.

(*2) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use above 28.100.

(*3) International QRP calling frequencies are neighborhood.



FISTS East Asia CW Net

We have informal CW sessions for ANYONE who wants to practice English QSO.

When	on Sundays @ East Asia between 7.025MHz and 7.030MHz. sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz
Part I	starting 2300UTC on Saturdays (0700 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 0800 JST on Sundays)
Part II	starting 0800UTC on Sundays (1600 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 1700 JST on Sundays)
Speed	12WPM to 15WPM
Controlled by	Nao, JO3HPM, Sugi, JK7UST/JE7YTQ, and Chen, BX2AH
Managed by	Nao, JO3HPM
Any other announcements might be posted to the English BBS.*	
* http://www.feacw.net/en/bbs/light.cgi	

FISTS EA NET Result

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participant
50-2	2005/12/4	0800-0820	14.0525	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
50-1	2005/12/3	2300-2353	7.0265	JE7YTQ (Sugi)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JG0SXC(Man)
49-2	2005/11/27	0800-0820	10.138&18.085	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
49-1	2005/11/26	2300-2330	10.138	JO3HPM(Nao)	JE1TRV(Atsu)
48-2	2005/11/20	0800-0830	14.0525	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
48-1	2005/11/19	2300-2340	7.0255	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JK7UST(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu)
47-2	2005/11/13	0800-0840	14.0545	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), BX2AH(Chen)
47-1	2005/11/12	2300-2340	7.0255	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL8MIL(Jun), JO3HPM(Nao)
46-2	2005/11/06	0800-0830	14.0525	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
46-1	2005/11/05	2300-2340	7.0275	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao)
45-2	2005/10/30	0800-0845	14.055	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JL8MIL(Jun), JO3FUO(Kenji), BX2AH(Chen)
45-1	2005/10/29	2300-2400	7.027	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL3YMV/3(Nao)
44-2	2005/10/23	0800-0910	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	9V1VV(John), JE1TRV(Atsu), UK/JI2MED(Manabu)
44-1	2005/10/22	2300-2400	7.0275	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL8MIL(Jun), JR0QWW/0(Taro), JG0SXC(Man), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JF3KNW(Nobu), JO3HPM(Nao)

HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE? Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or email to nancy@tir.com. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

HOW DO I GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST? Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to Ed, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page. The search engine feature on the main web page is updated more frequently than the text list on the web page, however it mainly contains North American members. The text list on the web page includes both DX and North American members. Because being listed on the members list is a benefit of being a member in good standing, only Active members are listed on the membership roster.

HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST? To receive periodic official Email updates, send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton. fistelist@comcast.net. If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Club supplies are sold as close to cost as possible. We offer: round metallic gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 & 1 "red heart" CW stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200. Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$1.50. White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50 Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn. Travel mugs with "I (heart) CW on BOTH sides - \$5. You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the comments box. Be sure your name & address are included. ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver: I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and Join the Code Crusade <http://www.fists.org>. The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy). Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back. The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL. All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Send order to POB 47, Hadley MI 48440. Prices are: **T-shirts = \$6.00 including POSTAGE Sweats = \$11.00 including POSTAGE Polos = \$14.00 including POSTAGE**. NOTE: Contact Nancy WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA postage.

You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com.

HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, VA 24121 Postage for SASE's is now 39 cents

HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND? For a brochure, email Jim AA9LS at aa9ls@turbotoads.com with their name, call sign, and postal address. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 An application is available for downloading on our web page <http://www.fists.org>.

APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD? Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448

WHAT IS KN0WCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW? KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get

permission, contact Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER TO BE or GET A CODE BUDDY?

W3GR, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email W3GR@arrl.net. We need ELMERS and Buddies, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

HOW DO I GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTO PAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself with your face about the size of a quarter to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038. If you have sent in a photo via email and it has not made it to the photopages, it is probably because Ken was unable to open it or shrink it to the proper size. Please send a printed copy of your photo jpg.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE? The Keynote is free on tape to legally blind members. Contact Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038. The tapes are read by John Whitt, AI4FR.

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION to give at my local club meeting?

It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation, including sample newsletters and if possible, goodies left over from the Dayton booth. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Monridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

HOW DO I GET APPLICATIONS AND SAMPLE NEWSLETTERS FOR A CLUB MEETING? When you do a presentation at a club meeting, Joe will send sample newsletters and applications to you. If you'd like sample newsletters to just give out at a meeting, without doing a presentation, Nancy WZ8C may have some leftovers newsletters she can send you. Email to nancy@tir.com and let her know how many you need.

HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at kk4kf@cox.net

HOW DO I GET MY HOME PAGE LISTED ON THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at kk4kf@cox.net

HOW DO I ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? You may use the FISTS logos and get cards from any printer you wish. Cheapqsls.com has made a special FISTS card with special pricing for FISTS members. For ordering information and to see the cards visit <http://www.cheapqsls.com/fists.htm>

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF THE K7QO CODE COURSE? You may get a free copy of this wonderful code course by sending a self-addressed-stamped-envelope large enough, and with enough postage to mail a CD, to Nancy at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. You may duplicate this CD and give it to your friends, or use it in a code class. If you would like a batch of them to give out at a hamfest or club meeting, we can do that, too. Contact Nancy WZ8C for details.

WHEN IS THE PIERPONT ART and SKILL BOOK COMING OUT? The book is being revised and we are aiming at a publication date before Hamvention 2006.

HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS? Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests and send it to Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI or nancy@tir.com Get published. Be famous!

WHAT IS A CC NUMBER? CC stands for Century Certificate. It is the number on your Century Award Certificate. It is exchanged to earn different types of awards. There is NOT a separate "Century Club".

FISTS CW Club

Membership and Renewal Form



Please check here if this is a renewal or if you have had a FISTS number in the past.

Callsign: _____ **Name used on Air:** _____

Mailing Name & Address: _____

Rig(s): _____

Antennas: _____

Other Clubs Affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc.): _____

Other Interests: _____

Birthday: _____ **Home Phone:** _____ **Are you visually impaired?** _____

The newsletter is offered on audio cassette to blind members at no extra charge,
do you require this service? _____

E-mail address: _____

Please include the annual membership fee of \$15 US funds. This includes the newsletter.

Date: _____ **Your Sponsor (optional):** _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and mail to:

**Nancy Kott WZ8C
PO Box 47
Hadley MI 48440-0047**

Paypal payments are welcome - please use the email address fists@tir.com

FISTS CW CLUB
PO Box 47
Hadley MI 48440

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The Winter SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in February.

New Years Resolution: Operate KN0WCW in 2006. Contact Karl, KB1DSB, to set up your time slot.

TWO new FISTS awards for 2006! One DX sponsored, one USA sponsored. Rules inside.